WORLD / A29
CIA's secret jails: How it all started

BUSINESS / B1
Foreign investments rose sharply in July; inflow rises to $265M

NEWS / A11
Another US VIP coming to shore up funding for antiterror war

NEWS / A7
Lawmaker seeks rise of P70-M annual pork

NEWS / A4
Bumped off National Artist for Music suffers heart attack

Rep. Suarez: I paid for steak dinner in DC

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE WOMAN REPORTED by the Washington Post to have picked up the $15,000 tab for pet sirloin at stateside dinner for President Macapagal-Arroyo and her party [turns]

REP. SUAREZ: A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, August 14, 2009 ★ Vol. 24 / No. 247

Justice banned for life from practicing law

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

FOR LEAKING AN UNpromulgated decision, retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruben T. Reyes has been banned by his former peers from practicing

JUSTICE: A11

[JUSTICE Ruben Reyes]

44 killed in Basilan war

Palace slams media to justify NY, DC dinners

By Christine V. Esguerra and Michael Lim Ubac

THE WASHINGTON POST REPORT ON the $35,000 dinner at Bobby Van's Steakhouse has further fueled the controversy over the $20,000 dinner at La Cirque.

But as far as Malacañang is concerned, why quibble over hefty dinner bills when President Macapagal-Arroyo has racked up billions worth of investments in return?

"Whatever monies may have been spent for the appropriately ceremonious conduct of her official trip abroad are but a tiny fraction of the billions of pesos she has committed, and will continue to commit, to the alleviation of hunger and the amelioration of poverty in our country," Anthony Golez, a deputy spokesperson of Ms Arroyo, said yesterday, reading from a statement at a media briefing.

Shifting to attack mode, Golez as-

PALACE: A21

Martin lavishes Leyteños with infra projects

By Joey A. Galeota
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE MAN AT THE center of controversy over a reported lavish dinner by President Macapagal-Arroyo and her group at a classy French restaurant in New York is actually getting praises from his constituents.

Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, who was identified by Malacañang to have footed the bill during the dinner, has implemented multimillion-peso projects that benefit Leyte's first congressional district.

The district covers this city and the towns of Palo, Tanauan, Alangalang, Babatngon, Santa Fe, San Miguel and Tolosa.

"We are glad that Representative Ro-

MARTIN: A21

TIPO-TIPO ENCOUNTER

23 soldiers, 21 Abus die in face-to-face combat

By Julie S. Alipala, *Inquirer Mindanao* and Jocelyn R. Uy in Manila

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE first bursts of gunfire thundered through the hills at 3:47 a.m. on Wednesday. By nightfall, the close-quarter, face-to-face combat was still raging, after Marine reinforcements fell into an ambush.

After the last shots have been fired, 23 soldiers—including two junior officers—lay dead, with 22 others wounded. At least 21 Abu Sayyaf bandits were also dead.

"It was a slugfest," Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, Western Mindanao Command chief, said of the fierce gun battle on Basilan Island.

For the Armed Forces, which ordered the offensive on the Abu Sayyaf hideout, the marathon fighting achieved a strategic objective—the capture of a hilltop Abu Sayyaf training camp that the bandits had been using to make bombs.

But the military paid a steep price: It suffered its worst loss ever in a single engagement with the Abu Sayyaf, a check with [wo]rmin archives showed. (See Page A10)

Eighteen of the soldiers killed belonged to a Marine company that tried

SOLDIERS: A10

PRIVATE FIRST Class Joel Alano of La Union recounts how government forces were overwhelmed by Abu Sayyaf bandits in the jungles of Tipo-Tipo. Alano, 22, said he and his comrades fought "before sunrise and after sundown but the enemies kept growing in numbers." [CREDIT]

Malacañang dismisses ex-envoy's claim

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SCOFFED at former Ambassador Albert del Rosario's claim that President Macapagal-Arroyo had considered suspending the writ of habeas corpus in 2005 and tried to seek US approval for such a move.

Undersecretary Anthony Golez said then Speaker Jose de Venecia was not authorized to discuss the matter with Del Rosario, contrary to the claim of the then ambassador to the United States.

"The President did not authorize the former Speaker, and we find this hearsay. What he simply knows is that JDV [De Venecia] went to Washington purportedly to convince the US authorities to [agree to the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus]," Golez told reporters at a briefing.

And since Del Rosario had "no personal knowledge" of the matter, "I don't know why we would take the word of Ambassador Del Rosario as gospel truth," Golez said.

In an article yesterday in the Inquirer, Del Rosario, who was the Philippine envoy to the United States from 2001 to 2006, wrote that Ms Arroyo was "capable of placing our democracy at great risk in pursuit of [her administration's] survival."

He said that at the height of the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal in mid-2005, De Venecia traveled to Washing-

MALACAÑANG: A20

Family declines Libingan burial

By Yolanda Scosio
Inquirer Northern Luzon

TACUPAN CITY—THE FAMILY OF Army First Lt. Del John Evangelista, killed in fighting with the Abu Sayyaf bandits on Basilan, has declined a military offer to bury him at Libingan ng mga Bayani. The family would rather be near close to them, always.

FAMILY: A20

US ADMIRAL Timothy J. Keating (center), commander of the US Pacific command, and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Victor Ibrado (right) walk toward venue to brief the media after the Mutual Defense Board meeting at Camp Aguinaldo. Thursday's meeting highlights the longstanding cooperation between the military forces of the two countries, 58 years after the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty [PHOTOGRAPH]

Erap told to forget presidency and just play role of kingmaker

By Michael Lim Ubac

FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH "Erap" Estrada should forget about his dream of reclaiming the presidency and just play the role of kingmaker, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday.

"If Erap's desire is to be vindicated by the people, I think that getting elected is not the only way to do that," Pimentel said at a luncheon press conference.

He said Estrada was being vindicated right now.

"When he goes around the nation, he is the only presidential [aspirant] who is literally being mobbed by people all over. And I think that is an indication of the kind of residual adulation that Erap enjoys," the senator said.

Estrada's rating has risen over the past months. Results of a survey conducted by Social Weather Stations in June showed that the ousted leader was ahead of

ERAP: A6

Nibbling experience at fish spa

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Chief Correspondent
Inquirer Visayas

TIBIAO, ANTIQUE—SCORES OF DOlight and giggles filled a neighborhood along the national highway near the poblacion.

"Kalitos! (It tickles!)" said 14-year-old May Joyce Absalon, a sophomore at Tario Lim Memorial High School, as she dipped her bare feet in the small and shallow pool of small fish.

Her three classmates eagerly watched her as hundreds of fish wiggled their way and lightly, but constantly, nibbled at her feet for a few minutes. The sensation was soothing, Absalon said.

For the past month, residents and visitors have flocked to the newly opened "Fish Spa," a two-hour ride from the Caticlan jump-off point in

NIBBLING: A18

One of only three in the country [PHOTO]

Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Low self-explanatory [illegible] with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms while [illegible] will turn partly cloudy to cloudy. Rain will continue [illegible] and thunderstorms [illegible] in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rain	Isabela/Aurora	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rain	Ilocos	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rain	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Iloilo	Cloudy with Rain	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rain	Cotabato	Mostly Cloudy
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rain	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

Lotto results: 2PM Draw 31 19 — EZ2* 2PM Draw 1 30 (*[illegible] order) — SUERTRES* 2PM Draw 0 5 4 — 4PM Draw 4 6 6 — 9PM Draw 1 — SIX DIGIT* 2PM Draw 5 7 8 — SUPERLOTTO 6/49 2PM Draw 8 14 30 32 38 40 — 9PM Draw 1 3 1 — P66,923,953.20

Leftist leader released for talks

By Dona Pazzibugan

DETAINED COMMUNIST LEADER RANDALL ECHANIS HAS BEEN ordered released temporarily by the Supreme Court so he can participate in the formal peace talks in Oslo, Norway between the government and the communist National Democratic Front.

Echanis was granted a provisional release for a period not exceeding six months after posting a P100,000 cash bond with the Office of the Clerk of Court. He is scheduled to be released today from detention at Camp Crame.

The high court described Echanis as a member of the NDF's reciprocal working committee on socio-economic reforms.

Echanis is officially known as the deputy secretary-general of the Bilisang Mag-babukid ng Pilipinas.

The court did not say if Echanis would have a police escort to make sure that he returns.

No objection

The Office of the Solicitor General did not pose any objection to Echanis' petition for temporary release from the Manila City Jail.

An alleged member of the Communist Party of the Philippines central committee, Echanis was accused of multiple murder for the killing of New People's Army cadres during a purge of the rebel ranks in the 1980s.

He was arrested in January 2008 in Baguio City and detained at the Leyte Provincial Jail in barangay Kanaungan in Dulag, Leyte, before being transferred to Camp Crame in July 2008, and to the Manila City Jail a month after.

Meanwhile, the wife of Wenton Ladlad, Echanis' co-accused, yesterday hosted a threesome exploring that the case of her husband and other activists should be tied to the peace talks.

Fides Lim Ladlad said she was disappointed at the provisional release of Echanis just because the peace talks were resuming and questioned why the court could not act on the case of her husband who she said had been falsely accused as he was a political prisoner where the crime was allegedly committed.

Satur, pals eye Senate run

By Kristine L. Alave

THREE STALWARTS OF THE LEFT are aiming for higher office in 2010—from the House of Representatives up to the Senate.

Party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo and Teddy Casiño of Bayan Muna and Liza Maza of Gabriela trooped yesterday to the Commission on Elections (Comelec) office in Intramuros, Manila, to register their party, Makabayan, which would be the vehicle for their senatorial bids.

Makabayan is composed of various leftist groups, its leaders said. Bayan and Gabriela were two of those groups that worked to oust former President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

Today they are vocal critics of the current administration and have joined hands with Estrada and other opposition figures in protests against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The three said they were running for the Senate to give voice to the marginalized sector.

Ocampo, who has served three consecutive terms in the House as the Bayan member, said they formed the party which is allied with the opposition, in response to the public clamor for a reform-oriented government.

"Today we take the fight for the politics of change one step further by registering the Makabayan coalition. This coalition, whose members have been tried and tested in the last three elections, aims to make a bigger presence in the political maneuverings by adopting three seats in the Senate in 2010," he said.

That Bayan and Gabriela have consistently led the party-list elections since 2001 shows there is great support for the groups and their advocacy despite the rampant killing and harassment of their members, Maza said.

"Even those seats in 2001—when several groups representing marginalized constituents were first allowed to run—the party-list groups won four eight seats in the House.

"This merely proves that you cannot kill or defeat a movement whose time has come. Through Makabayan, we reaffirm our commitment against corrupt, repressive and elitist politics that adhere to foreign dictates, as exemplified by the Arroyo administration's brand of politics and governance," Maza said.

Like Ocampo, Maza's House tenure ends next year, after she shall also have served three consecutive terms. Casiño has served two terms as Bayan member.

The three said they were inspired by the Makabayan-led Sorsogon bets' triumph, although they admitted they did not have the funds and political machinery of established political parties.

"Sure, we lack funds and other material resources. But we have a nationwide machinery of dedicated volunteers and activists who can man a campaign anywhere. Like we often. Plus, we have a voice base of around three million who have stuck with us through thick and thin since 2001," Ocampo said.

Makabayan co-chair Mario Ginez said Maza, Ocampo and Casiño will ally themselves with opposition candidates. But they had not decided which party this would be.

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Miriam a shoo-in for admin ticket

By TJ Burgonio

REGARDLESS OF WHOM SHE supports for president in next year's election, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago remains a shoo-in for the presidential list of the administration coalition Lakas-Kampi (LK).

"Whoever happens on top, we still want Senator Miriam on our roles," said Gabriel Claudio, secretary general of the coalition, in a phone interview. "From the beginning, we wanted her to be on the Lakas-Kampi slate."

Defensor-Santiago, a staunch supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo, has bolstered she will back the presidential bid of Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. and was spoke for Nacionalista Party (NP) ticket if she seeks reelection.

It was for means, she said, of repaying Villar who had contributed hugely to her campaign kitty in the 1995 presidential election which was won by Fidel V. Ramos.

Claudio, also the president of political advisory, said that even if Defensor-Santiago joined the NP, the administration coalition could still adopt her as a candidate.

"It is not possible for her to be formally affiliated with the coalition, there's the possibility of her being adopted by us," he said in a phone interview.

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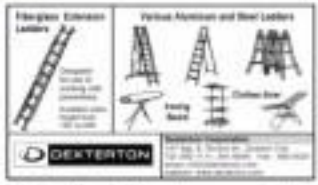

Bumped off as National Artist, composer suffers heart attack

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE AVANT-GARDE COMPOSER WHO WAS unceremoniously yanked out of the 2009 National Artist list yesterday underwent a heart operation at the Philippine Heart Center.

Sixty-seven-year-old Ramon Santos was rushed to the hospital last Tuesday and is confined in the hospital's intensive care unit.

His daughter, Weya, said her father was taken in the operating room at about noon yesterday but otherwise declined to give any statement.

"We are primarily concerned with my father's health right now. Please pray for him," she said.

The younger Santos said the family would prefer not to have her father's hospitalization entered above, particularly after the recent controversy over the National Artists awards.

Asked to comment on a text message going around which Santos was reported to have suffered "a massive heart attack" and had to undergo brain surgery, Weya clarified there was no brain surgery.

She also did not comment on speculations that Santos may have taken to heart the disappointment of having been dropped from the list of 2009 National Artists.

Santos' relatives, colleagues and former students at the University of the Philippines College of Music came and stayed with members of the family while they waited for the results of the operation.

"He reportedly collapsed while in Cubao on Tuesday afternoon. It was a good thing that his students were with him," a text sleuth to one visitor who asked not to be named.

He said Santos was conscious and was able to talk to his visitors last Wednesday.

The 1992 Gawad Buhay Center to show appreciation to Santos's friends and colleagues who may wish to donate blood, Weya said.

Santos, a former dean of the UP College of Music, was dropped from the 2009 list of National Artists recommended by the National Committee on Culture and the Arts and the Cultural Center of the Philippines and was replaced by four others recommended by Malacañang.

His removal and the inclusion of the names of Cecilia Goldie-Alonzo, Cirilo Caparas, Francisco Mañosa and Fides Montes were denounced by the country's cultural sectors.

Several living National Artists and members of the arts community have protested the "selection and deselection" of National Artists by Malacañang.

Santos has a second daughter, Monica, who is based in the United States.

Last Tuesday, Santos went to work at the College of Music. He reportedly collapsed while shopping for groceries in the afternoon.

The source said the UP-based daughters cannot confirm the news but because of the news that Santos would be given the title but others told that it would not happen, the daughter left.

Corrections

IN THE AUG. 12 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Men of Music," in art, music, dance is like prayer, opens dog. 14 as 18'—incorrect that the UST Symphony Orchestra would take part in the musical "Men to Music," it's Pipo Cifra Cuevas and Poesia Production that will play the music.

Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 888 Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makati-Ayala, Makati City. Fax No. 897-47-53/98; e-mail address: dayde@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or other deep ways be sent to the Publisher, e-mail address: [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph or fax this 897-47-53/98. Attn: The Publisher. Telephone number is 897-0808 Local 888.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, August 14, 2009
19th Week in Ordinary Time
Memorial for Mary Eviller
1st Reading: Jos 24:1-13
Gospel: Mt 19:3-12

Some Pharisees approached him. They wanted to test him and asked, "Is it ever allowed to divorce his wife for any reason he wants?"

Jesus replied, "Have you not read that in the beginning the Creator made them male and female, and he said, Men has seen so more father and mother, and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one body? So they are no longer two but one body. So no one separate what God has joined."

They asked him, "Then, why did Moses command us to write a bill of divorcement in order to divorce?" Jesus replied, "Moses knew your stubborn hearts, so he allowed you to divorce your wives, but it was not so in the beginning. Therefore I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except it be for unfaithfulness, and marries another, commits adultery."

The disciples said, "If that is the condition of a married man, it is better not to marry." Jesus said to them, "Not everybody can accept what you have just said, but only those who have received this gift. There are to make vows to Jesus their master's words. Some have been made that way by others. But there are some who have given up the possibility of marriage for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who can accept it, accept it."

Commentary:

John Andrew said the Israelites, no one owns our possessions as we said and his Word is eternal. There were even nations greater and mightier than Israel that had to be dispossessed and destroyed. But, just as no nation could do that Joshua and Israel under God, so no living in the spirit makes us withstand the power of Christ, who has defeated Satan, and is now at God's right hand.

Joshua spoke to the Israelites in Shechem. The shortest part of this sermon was a history of God's people which had been for the people. The application of this history was an admonition to fear and serve God. At Christmas, we must remember that spiritual victory has its obedience to God through the power of His resurrection, Jesus Christ. He has won the victory our work for God is done, until our life is done. If he lengthens out our days beyond what we expected, it is because He has some further service for us to do.

Damien Gomezcaballero Sandalero, Jr., a Marian in UP Diliman, Quezon City, OP, is the Co-Editor [illegible]

Gringo to testify in Magdalo trial

By Alinor W. Loyez

SEN. GREGORIO "GRINGO" HONASAN, the alleged "ringleader" of junior officers who staged a mutiny at a Makati hotel in 2003, has agreed to take the witness stand in the ongoing trial of those accused of participation in the mutiny.

"We're expecting him to say that there was no coup d'etat, and that there's nothing strange about his National Recovery Program (NRP) because it's just a platform of government," said Ernesto Francisco Jr., lawyer of the accused soldiers from the Magdalo group.

Honasan will give his testimony on Sept. 29 in the court of Judge Oscar Dimayuga of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148.

The junior officers, led by former Militant TV host a senator, allegedly proclaimed during the siege of Oakwood hotel (now Ascott) in Makati City that a new government (but would be set up would adopt the NRP.

The NRP was crafted by Honasan, former head of the Reform-Armed Forces Movement Mahaklama, that staged several coup attempts against the Arroyo administration in the late '80s.

Erraiza no-show

Based on the Magdalo group's blog site, the NRP advocated "social equity as the essence of government" with the primary objective of "arresting the rapid spiraling decrease of our republic and lay the foundation for a truly strong nation."

Meanwhile, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who was supposed to testify yesterday was a no show after getting a temporary restraining order (TRO) from the Court of Appeals on Wednesday.

In granting the TRO, the court said "national security matters" to be elicited from Ermita's testimony were covered by executive privileges.

The soldier had requested the former presidential adviser on the peace process to testify on "Operation Getaway," that allegedly secured military plans to take over the Lapulapu Shrub and Subok Complex in 2003 for "commercial purposes."

The junior officers said they were deprived as President Macapagal-Arroyo allegedly ordered the Greenhouse documents confiscated, and detained they took over the Makati serviced apartments in July 2003 to air their grievances.

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Erap told to forget presidency and just play role of kingmaker

From page A1

the possible contenders in the 2010 presidential election.

Estrada got 22 percent, followed by Sen. Manuel "Manny" Villar (19 percent) and Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero (18 percent).

Vice President Noli de Castro got 15 percent; Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, 9 percent; and Sen. Loren Legarda, 7 percent.

The nationwide survey, which covered 1,500 respondents, had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

Buoyed by the results, Estrada on Wednesday said that the survey results might convince him to run for president next year.

He has said he would run if the opposition failed to unite.

Estrada said he would announce in mid-September or late next month whether he would run for president.

The former President was imprisoned after his ouster in January 2001 over corruption charges. He was convicted of plunder in September 2007 and was pardoned by President Macapagal-Arroyo the following month.

Disarmed reminded Estrada of the constitutional ban on former presidents seeking a reelection.

He said Estrada's political plan to run again was motivated by his desire to restore his honor and dignity.

"And considering the composition, configuration of the Supreme Court today, it is a possibility ... that he just might be disqualified," said Disarmed, a lawyer.

A "challenge" can be initiated against Estrada as soon as he files his certificate of candidacy, the senator said.

Unifying the opposition

Everyone in the opposition wants unity, but who's going to give way?

At the weekly Explain ae Senado news forum, Escudero pushed for efforts to unify the fractious opposition.

He believed that a unified opposition would end its victory in 2010.

Pimentel, siding with Legarda, is reportedly being groomed to be the standard-bearer of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), the party founded by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. which, however, is allied with the majority coalition in the House of Representatives.

But Estrada's ruddies say who among the presidential aspirants would be willing to give way to a common standard-bearer of the opposition.

"I haven't declared yet that I'm running, so what will I give up?" said the senator, who turns 70 on Oct. 19, the age requirement for a presidential candidate.

Against all odds, Estrada's believed that critics of Mr. Arroyo would still find a common ground to unite if they

Too many aspirants

Pimentel had proposed a national convention to choose a common candidate, but Estrada said the convention would drop of presidential hopefuls in the opposition ranks, but this fell on deaf ears.

Estrada is reportedly answering a meeting of opposition leaders in October, but Pimentel doubted if anything would come out of it.

Rep. Suarez: I paid

From page A1

out to be Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez.

On the phone yesterday with the Inquirer, Suarez, the senior deputy secretary general of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD, said it was he who had paid the bill at the dinner at Bobby Van's Steakhouse in Washington on July 30, after Mr. Arroyo met with US President Barack Obama at the White House.

The Washington Post reported that Ms Arroyo's party of 65 people "took over one of the restaurant's private rooms and dined on lobster, steak and fine wines; at the conclusion of the meal, an unidentified woman opened a handbag stuffed with cash, counted out bills and paid the $15,000 tab—which included a generous tip."

Asked about the reported woman with the handbag, Suarez said: "Me, I paid."

He also said it was untrue for Ms Arroyo's friends and allies to treat her. "It's normal, it's normal. From here, we invite the President for dinner."

He added that people were making too much of the dinners where there were important deals that Philippine officials had been able to negotiate with the US government.

Suarez said the food bill amounted to about $15,000, adding the service charge and taxes, it came up to $15,000.

He pointed out that it was a big group that included the security staff and Secret Service agents.

Suarez said Bobby Van's Steakhouse was the second choice after Morton's Steakhouse.

"I invited them to Allan's but it was closed... The bill could have been bigger had we ended up there," he said.

Free ticket, hotels

One of the more than 20 lawmakers who joined the President in her trip to the United States ordered out on the expensive dinners at Bobby Van's Steakhouse in Washington and in Grupo in New York.

But he did not have to worry about his plane ticket and hotel bills.

Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante, a member of the ruling party, disclosed that he did not shell out money for plane fare and hotels (including two days in a single room at the Waldorf Astoria in New York), and maintained that his colleagues likewise had no expenses.

But then, he said, he was not on the Ist Grupo dinner and made do with a $2 shawarma in Middle Eastern "sandwich") when he was in the Big Apple.

According to Abante, who chairs the House of Representatives' public information committee, it was his first time to join Mr. Arroyo on a trip abroad.

"I have to admit I do not know who occupied her (seat). It's not on me... I did not ask any more questions. I joined the trip because I am proud to say the President was invited for a state [**it was a working visit-Ed**] visit," Abante said at the Sen'yo Kouan restaurant in Quezon City.

Pressed to set aesthetic interview why he did not wonder who had paid for the bulk of the expenses for the trip, Abante replied: "I did not find out. I was thinking that, you know, being a state visit, that would be normal."

Mr. Arroyo's trip was not a state visit where the host country shoulders all the expenses of the visitor.

In a phone interview, House Secretary General Marilyn Yap said the chamber did not disburse money for Speaker Prospero Nograles and the other lawmakers who were in the President's party.

Yap cited an unwritten rule in the House that whenever Nograles uses such a delegation, no institutional funds would be used. She said Nograles had laid down the rule when he became Speaker.

Abante also said there should be "accountability" for the US trip.

"But he expressed the belief that the President would be able to explain all her actions. "I don't think she is hiding anything. I think whatever she did, she'd be able to explain it. She's a lawyer, she's the President, she's mature enough that everything she does should be accountable."

Abante also said Mr. Arroyo, being a head of state, should be accorded the best treatment even if she was from a Third World country.

Just a salad

Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said the dinner at Ist Grupo with its tab of $20,000 was an ground to seek the President's impeachment.

"In the first place, when it's an invitation, I don't think you are there to ask [your host]. That sounds will you spend for every thing?" It's an invitation. I don't find it to be the basis of an impeachable offense," Devanadera, the concurrent solicitor general, said in an interview at the Bureau of Immigration.

She admitted that she was with the party at Ist Grupo, but said she just ordered a salad because she was trimming rice. NOR a report from Jocos Pan-Dugan

Solon wants more pork; P70M a year not enough

By Leila B. Salaverria

APPROXIMATELY P70 MILLION A YEAR IS not enough for one congressman.

Surigao Rep. Jose Solis wants a raise in the pork barrel of members of the House of Representatives.

He has filed a resolution calling on the House and Senate to upgrade the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), more commonly known as pork barrel, to P1bn, he said, of the higher sum of construction materials.

Solis did not say how much of an increase he wanted, but he said his resolution should be transmitted to the Office of the President.

He said the PDAF of some representatives had tripled at P30 million per lawmaker since 2007, while the various Infrastructure and Local Projects (VILP) fund has been at P40 million per lawmaker since 2006.

The GLP was at P50 million to 2003 and 2004, and even plunged to P20 million in 2005 and 2006, he pointed out.

Senators, on the other hand, get P200 million a year in discretionary or pork barrel funds.

The pork barrel has gotten an unsavory reputation as a source of kickbacks for lawmakers, who deny the allegations.

Critics note that it is used more to aid re-election than for the benefit of the people the congressmen are supposed to serve—pointing to the numerous basketball courts, waiting sheds and roads in nowhere the pork barrel has mainly been used for.

Bataan governor cleared of graft

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS dismissed graft charges against Bataan Gov. Enrique "Tet" Garcia involving the disputed 300-hectare Bataan Shipyard and Engineering Co. (Bisenco) properties in the province.

In a 16-page resolution, the antigraft court's Third Division threw out two Ombudsman cases alleging that a March 2006 compromise agreement Garcia entered into with the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) and Bisenco to partition the property was disadvantageous to Bataan.

The antigraft court pointed out that it and the Makati Regional Trial Court have yet to rule on who really owns the property.

The government still has a pending case before the Sandiganbayan against the Marcoses, Alberto Romualdez, and several others, alleging the property is part of the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth.

"Considering that the rights of [Bataan] as owner... have not been vested, it cannot maintain that its ownership in the Bisenco 300 properties," said the Sept. 7 ruling penned by Associate Justice Francisco Villaruz Jr.

"Consequently, there can be no injury suffered by the province because of the alleged extinction of its ownership in the Bisenco properties," he added.

Datar; 88

EDGARDO S. DATAR SR. OF BARANGA, ALBAY, died Aug. 4 at the age of 88 in California, USA.

He is survived by his wife, Inocencia; children Brenda Morris, Mer Aguarte, Rodie and Tess Datar, Alex, Christie and Rudy Ramirez, Irma and Ted Perez, Edgardo II and Judy Datar, Jeanette and Maria Datar, Jhenon and Annette Datar, Edgardo III and Gemma Datar; and 19 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

A MESSAGE OF THANKS TO OUR PEOPLE

Words cannot adequately express the great honor and humility we feel in the face of the love and affection bestowed on our mother, Cory Aquino, by so many of our countrymen.

From the doctors who gallantly stayed by her side in fighting her cancer
to the hospital staff whose gentle care and respect for her privacy did much to ease her discomfort;

From the organizers, donors and volunteers who selflessly and patiently attended
to the needs of our family and the people during the wake
to the compassionate individuals who quietly prayed and grieved with us;

From the Christian Brothers and the office of the Archbishop of Manila
who made available their facilities without hesitation
to our brothers and sisters in the Armed Forces and the National Police
who vigilantly watched over Mom and escorted her to her final resting place;

From the many kind hearts who celebrated Mass, spoke so eloquently and sang so beautifully
to the tens of thousands who came in person or who shared their feelings
on TV, radio, and print, through text messages and the internet;

For the countless acts of generosity and devotion so poignantly captured by a free press;

But most especially for all the men, women and children who braved the elements
for hours on end to pay their last respects and to join us in procession.

In mourning the loss of our mother, we are uplifted in witnessing what we Filipinos can be
when we are united by genuine caring for a loved one and for one another.

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Kris, James, Josh and Baby James

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2009

Briton held for jewelry smuggling

By Kristine L. Alave

THE PHILIPPINE Anti-Smuggling Group (PASG) has arrested a British national accused of smuggling millions of pesos worth of diamonds and luxury watches to the Philippines over the years.

Alpha Kwok was arrested after PASG agents raided her residence on the 17th Floor of Pacific Place in Ortigas Center, Pasig City last Monday.

The PASG said a search warrant was served by the anti-smuggling group after the agency received reports that Kwok, who is also facing charges for violation of the Immigration Act, was using her residence as a storage area for smuggled goods.

The PASG said Kwok did not have a passport or a permit to work in the Philippines, according to reports.

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ALLIED BANK

Mabuhay MILES

44 killed in Basilan war

From page A1

to help their beleaguered comrades but were ambushed, surviving soldiers said.

Some of the wounded soldiers said what puzzled them was that the Abu Sayyaf seemed to have known in advance the government troops' movements, including the 8 a.m. arrival of reinforcements from the 67th Marine Raider Company.

The Army identified the two junior officers killed as First Lt. Chester Bautista of the Philippine Military Academy Class 2004 and First lo. Del Alva Evangelista of PMA Class 2006.

Twenty of the slain soldiers belonged to the Marines, while the rest were from the Army. Among those also killed was Army Cpl. Renato Dinalo.

"I was really wondering why they knew about our movements," Private First Class Randy Libron said in Filipino during an interview at the hospital inside the Cotabato-based command headquarters. "If we had lost our nerve, for sure we would all be gone."

Libron indicated the bandits were waiting as the soldiers crept forward.

'Enemy was waiting'

Libron, of the 4th Scout Ranger Company, said his company was the first to arrive in the target area. The bandits' camp in Mile Sawadon to the village of Silangkum.

"My thought the enemy was only few. We were one company (about 100 soldiers) and we had complete supplies for three days. But when we arrived at the target area, the enemy was already in position. Hyun, hahaharo na ngod! Don't it, there was intensive fighting," Libron said.

"It was face-to-face fighting, then running and chasing, until they ran into our other unit (Light Reaction Company)," Libron said.

Two in Libron's group were killed—a junior officer and a comrade.

"It was the most difficult and the most exhausting gun battle I had ever encountered in my whole life," 23-year-old Private First Class Joel Abano, a member of the elite unit Light Reaction Company, told the Inquirer.

Abano, a native of La Union, was hit by shrapnel on his back.

"All throughout the day until night, there was no letup in the fighting," Abano said, breathing heavily as he lay on his hospital bed. "We were getting hungry and weak. Then our reinforcements were ambushed."

"As the fighting went on, they were increasing in number. At first, they seemed like they were about 50. But before nightfall, they have grown to about 200," Abano said.

Staff Sergeant Gary Tolentino also did not expect the fighting would last until nightfall.

"We thought the fighting would only last for a short while because we had reinforcements. As it turned out, our support was hit really hard," Tolentino said, referring to the 67th Marine Raider Company.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Arnulfo Burgos Jr. estimated between 150 and 60 Abu Sayyaf men were killed in the fighting.

Burda, a member of the 4th Scout Ranger Company and evangelista, of the 2nd Light Reaction Company were among the first soldiers to enter the Abu Sayyaf lair, Armed Forces spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr. told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo.

"It was still dark when the firefights began. The two officers were equipped with night vision goggles as they were in that group who first launched the operation," Brawner said. He said soldiers fought the Abu Sayyaf at a very close range.

The five clash initially involved 30 Abu Sayyaf bandits, he said. A bigger clash occurred two hours later at around 8:30 a.m. and lasted for seven hours with at least 200 soldiers fighting 150 Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Sporadic firefighting went on until Wednesday evening in adjacent villages as the Abu Sayyaf clashed with the military's blocking forces, Brawner said.

'Significant victory'

The camp attack the soldiers overran was where Abu Sayyaf members were being trained in bomb-making.

Ordoñez said the slain soldiers had made "their supreme sacrifice into freedom in order to protect our people."

Ordoñez said the first wave of clashes involved troops from the Special Operations Command (Scout Rangers); the 41st Marine Company, Base Bravo Battalion; the Special Operations Platoon 18 and the Marine Battalion Landing Team 10.

The second wave involved soldiers from the 67th Marine Raider Company, the Force Recon Battalion and the police Special Action Force.

Ordoñez claimed that growers were achieved a "significant victory."

"We have also recovered a total of 22 enemy body, and 37 high-powered firearms," Ordoñez has told reporters in Zamboanga.

He said two Abu Sayyaf commanders, Mantog Indanan and Add Sali, were among those killed.

Four Admiral Alexander Pama, commander of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao and chief of Task Force Tolibas in charge of the offensive in Basilan, said: "We have taken their bomb manufacturing site where they assemble and make improvised explosive devices."

Pama said the camp was also where the group brought their kidnap victims.

"This is a big blow to their capability, especially to bomb-making, because we have depleted them of improvised explosive devices," Brawner said.

He added: "However, we are not yet certain that they will not launch other attacks here yet."

Brawner said Wednesday's offensive "was a deliberate operation launched by the military targeting this camp, which is the heart of the Abu Sayyaf activities."

Director Felizardo Serapio Jr., chief of the Western Mindanao Command, said the military had also confiscated explosives, blasting caps, and the explosive devices and bomb materials recovered from the camp had the "trademark" of suspected bomber Khair Mundos, who had escaped from a General Santos City jail.

"We presume he was there in this area because he is indicted by the evidences of [explosives] recovered in the training camp," Serapio said.

Ed Rabadia, Mayor Ismael Librando's Point vice chair for military affairs, said 34 MILF men were among those killed in the clashes. He claimed soldiers entered an MILF territory, resulting in the encounter.

Rabadia claimed only two Abu Sayyaf men were killed in the day-long encounters disputing the military tally.

Ordoñez said the military had prior coordination with the MILF.

No part-time Abu

"We sought the help of the MILF," he said, adding that the MILF men reported killed "fought alongside the Abu Sayyaf."

"We considered them Abu Sayyaf bandits. There is no such thing as part-time (Abu Sayyaf), part-time MILF," Ordoñez said.

Military officials could not ascertain suffering at least a ton as Wednesday's move the carnage on July 28, 2007, when 14 Marines were killed—10 of them beheaded—during a fruitless rescue operation for kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi.

Ordoñez said, "We are saddened by our loss... but it is an accepted fact that part of our duties would entail risk of being killed in action. Death is a natural consequence of such operation." With reports from AP and Reuters

MEDITERRANEAN: Command chief Marine Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino (on the Wounded Personnel Medevac) is one of the 32 government troops injured in Thursday's fighting in Basilan. The wounded are being treated at Dr. Basilio Natividad Hospital inside the Western Mindanao Command headquarters. JUAN L. ALCONCEL/PDI

FIRST LT. CHESTER BAUTISTA dies in action. (Inset) | (Image)

WHAT WENT BEFORE

Bloodiest battles

REPORTS TO STAFF 10:57 the Abu Sayyaf have resulted to heavy casualties for government forces.

In Aug. 9, 2007, a total of 26 soldiers were killed in two separate ambushes with government troops in Al-Barka and some 60 Abu Sayyaf bandits and MILF guerrillas in Albarka municipality (January 15 to 16).

In May 2001, Abu Sayyaf bandits killed 23 soldiers in Lamitan, Basilan, including some of the corpses. Inquirer Research

Source: Inquirer Archives

Nibbling experience at fish spa

From page A1

Hiking tours to Bantayan Island, for a unique pampering experience.

Guests wade or swim in a shallow pool stocked with thousands of small fish, which act as exfoliating agents that nibble off dead skin, calluses and cuticles, and create a soothing feeling similar to weak but constant electric jolts.

The fish feed only on dead skin layer, leaving the healthy ones untouched to heal and rebuild. "It feels like walking barefoot on the beach," said Edenard Magdiong, 34, a ceramic from Barangay Poblacion where the spa is located.

While fish spas have become the latest fad in other Asian countries, such as China, Vietnam, Thailand and Turkey, only three are found in the Philippines, including one in Boracay and another in Manila, according to Hotel Calaguing, 22, founder of the fish spa in Tibiao, 75 kilometers north of the capital town of San Jose.

But his plans to outlive the high-cost health centers found elsewhere, which use the imported Garra rufa fish species. One fish costs P150 to P300, said maintaining a school is costly.

For the masses

The Tibiao Fish Spa at the Calaguing residence is meant to be a "fish spa for the masses." It uses a native fish species that can be found in Tibiao. Calaguing and his business partners declined to identify the species while they are filing a patent for their technology.

The spa mainly services the community, providing a relaxing experience for a few pesos. Guests pay a minimum of P40 per 10 minutes and P5 for every succeeding minute.

As many as 25 people can dangle their feet and legs in the U-shaped pool while sitting on benches or chairs.

At first, one gets scared once the eight and bunch of thousands of small, slippery and wriggling fish. The light, tingling jolts suddenly comes as the fish nibbles at the soles, all over the foot and the other submerged parts.

It can be entertaining, especially for the kiddos, but it gradually becomes soothing and relaxing.

Calaguing, a marine fisheries graduate from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV) in Miag-ao, Iloilo, and eighth placer in the 2008 fisheries technologists licensure examination, said the fish come from a friend's mariculture pond and that he discovered their behavior himself.

In putting up the spa, Calaguing gained the support of his family and close friends and former UPV classmates Victor Marcia Emmanuel Dorado and Rea Debao Dimaala.

Both aquaculture fisheries majors, Nicole and Dimaala helped in the technical setup and operations, including designing the filtration and aeration systems.

One critical component of the project is maintaining the maximum fish density to enhance the experience and ensuring that the fish will survive.

The spa has become a hit for this bucolic municipality of some 26,000, with 10 of its 23 barangays along the coast. While fishing is the main livelihood of the residents, they have never imagined that fish can be useful this way.

Since it opened on June 20, on its opening number of people have dropped by. They include government employees, students on field trips, businessmen and even fishermen.

One school in Tibiao has offered its top students a free spa treat as incentive, reported Rose Bayhon, spa manager. Many students save up their allowances to go to the spa during recess period, or after classes, she added.

Wet shirts

Teachers, curious why their students come to school with wet shirts, have tried out the spa.

The spa has boosted the town's tourism efforts, according to municipal tourism officer Ricelyn Jimenez.

"The community will certainly benefit from the project and this is a breakthrough in our tourism industry because this employs neighbors and members of the community while at the same time provides a unique experience to visitors," Jimenez said.

Several investors have already eyed Calaguing and his partners to expand and open branches outside of Tibiao.

But Calaguing said he and his partners would operate the spa only in Tibiao for the next five years so that they could help develop the tourism industry of the town and barangay.

They also want to fully develop the technology and establish protocols before expanding.

"We plan to put up the biggest fish spa resort in Asia and hopefully establish its health benefits through scientific research," Calaguing said.

LOCAL folk, students and children of Barangay Calaguan enjoy the fish spa experience for as low as P10 for 10 minutes. Tourists flock to the native homestay-spa of the Calaweg family in Tibiao, Antique, for the relaxing experience. ARNOLD ALMACEN

Another US VIP coming to visit; Obama not far behind?

By Alexis Romero

AFTER THE RECENT VISITS OF US Defense Secretary Robert Gates and CIA Director Leon Panetta, another important US official is coming to town.

A source told the Inquirer US Sen. Clarence William "Bill" Nelson is arriving in the Philippines on Aug. 19.

Nelson, a Democrat representing Florida, is a member of the Senate committees on armed services, budget, finance, commerce, foreign relations, and the powerful select committee on intelligence.

"The visit is meant to show up leading for the fight on global terrorism and regional security," said the source, who agreed to talk to the Inquirer on condition of anonymity for lack of authority to speak on the visit.

Nelson will visit the country through Zamboanga from Brunei.

He will reportedly visit US troops in the province who are helping hunt down the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf terror group.

A possible item in the agenda of his meetings with President Macapagal-Arroyo and national security officials is a visit by President Barack Obama to the Philippines.

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INQUIRER VOL. XVIII, NO. 247

OPINION

Seeing red

EDITORIAL

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT PEARS THAT the scheduled resumption of peace talks to end the four-decade-old communist insurgency won't push through. "It is now doubtful whether the meetings scheduled for Aug. 28 to Sept. 5 in Oslo [in Norway] would be held," the NDF's Luis Jalandoni said in a statement sent to news agencies from the Netherlands, where he and other NDF leaders have enjoyed safe haven the last 20 or so years. "There are strong indications that the [government] intends to scuttle the resumption of formal talks."

Because of the Arroyo administration's mishandling of the crucial ceasefire stage of the negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the NDF's allegations may find a sympathetic hearing among Filipinos. After all, the flaws over the unsigned Memorandum of Agreement on ancestral domain, rejected by the Supreme Court a year ago as unconstitutional, has not yet been fully explained. But Jalandoni's assertion begs the question: Why would the administration seek to stop the peace negotiations it wanted to resume in the first place?

The government peace panel rushed to negotiate with the NDF issued a fourfold counter-statement the day after Jalandoni reached out to media. "The sudden pessimism of the NDF over the scheduled talks is not very encouraging, as negotiations require a determination to be positive and to extend mutual understanding and cooperation," the panel said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, once a presidential adviser for the peace process himself, emphasized the government's determination, saying that "the government is taking every effort to let the talks move forward."

Is this simply a case of yet another high government official paying lip service to the ideal, but furtively maneuvering behind the scenes to meet other, contrary objectives? After all, this kind of conduct is not exactly unfamiliar to the Arroyo administration.

We think, however, that in this case the government deserves the benefit of the doubt. After the MOA fiasco, President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Avelino Razon to replace the highly divisive Hermogenes Esperon. The government allowed Jalandoni, a top NDF official, to return to the Philippines on a personal matter (and reportedly the situation by declining any opportunity to talk politics). Last July 17, the government lifted the suspension of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG), which would allow the "negotiators, consultants, staffers, security and other personnel" of the NDF (in the language of the Joint Agreement), to "free and unhindered passages in all areas in the Philippines, and in traveling to and from the Philippines in connection with the performance of their duties in the peace negotiations."

Is it possible that there may be other factors in the government who are not keen on resuming the peace talks, and may thus seek to delay the inevitable? Without a doubt. Many in the military are and will always be skeptical—which is why President Arroyo prefers ex-generals as presidential peace advisers, and also why the only major peace agreement ever signed by the post-Marcos era was forged under President Fidel V. Ramos, himself an ex-general.

But by the same token, the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front also has elements opposed to, or at least deeply cynical about, the logic of peace negotiations. It is those elements Jalandoni must have had in mind, when he issued his statement.

His pessimism, he said, was based on the fact that the government was making "difficult or impossible the release of other detained consultants"—those prisoners with high rank in the communist movement, who will serve the talks as NDF consultants. We can see his maneuver, thus, as actually an attempt to pressure the government to move faster on the releases, as well as an assurance to those he represents that resumption of peace talks won't begin without those prisoners being released.

Unfortunately, the government—acting on the people's behalf—needs to make sure that all legal requirements are complied with, before releasing the prisoner-consultants. That takes time. And in the peace negotiations the people want to see resumed, time is the one thing that cannot be negotiated.

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Watch acacia trees at back of UP Diliman campus

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I HAVE GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS. FIRST, the good news: The 500 giant acacia trees on MacArthur Highway don't have to be cut to widen the highway. The two lines of trees on both sides of the highway can be maintained as island dividers and new trees set aside on the other sides. The new lanes needed for the widening are of peshuks, lane-divorce vehicles, and pedestrians; the center lanes would be for the regular vehicles only thus increasing their capacity. Environment Secretary Lito Atienza likes the idea and has already approved it, according to architect Ian Paladin.

Now, for the bad news: About 100 trees have already been cut. It seems that even while the Department of Public Works and Highways announced that cutting would be suspended, the cutting of the trees was hastened.

The real reason for the desire to cut the trees was not the widening of the highway but the shortage of wood. Due to the over-logging of our forests, there is now an extreme lack of wood for furniture-making and wood carving, so wood for small furniture-making like bed frames, coffee tables, Acacia wood is excellent material for wood carving and furniture. So greedy woodcarvers are plenty at stamey every time they see an acacia tree will standing. In fact, carabaneers will agree to cut, for free, trees on roadsides to be widened, provided they keep the wood. The carabaneers at Ifugao have not only got paid for harvesting but get to dispose of the wood.

Make bad news: The DENR order against the cutting of trees on MacArthur Highway is not the only one. It has issued a total ban on cutting anywhere in the country. The order is absolute and will be kept. The DPWH and its contractors will quickly cut them before anybody notices, even in the dead of night. There giant acacia trees behind the Diliman campus of the University of the Philippines, whose branches are beginning to bring widowed into U.S. should be smoothed closely. We might wake up one morning to find them already cut and the perpetrators already running, laughing all the way to the bank.

I have more good news and bad news. The good news: Former Bulacan Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan has apparently won his election protest against sitting Gov. Joselito Mendoza.

Now, the bad news: The Commission on Elections was ready to issue a resolution declaring Pagdanganan the rightful winner but Mendoza filed a petition for prohibition and injunction with the Supreme Court. The last resort of a losing candidate is to delay the proclamation of his rival. And the surest way to delay a case is to appeal to the Supreme Court. Since it matters the rules, there is no deadline for the SC to decide appealed cases. While it has imposed deadlines on lower courts to resolve cases, the SC has exempted itself from that rule. Cases can sleep for many years in the SC. Justice delayed is justice denied is often cited by the SC in castigating lower courts, but it forgets such dictum when it applies to its own actions.

But let us go back to the Pagdanganan case. On July 1, 2007, Pagdanganan filed an election protest against Mendoza after the May 2007 elections. Revision of ballots started on April 28, 2008 and finished on July 10, 2008.

Mendoza filed a counter-protest. The revision of ballots that were the subject of the counter-protest began on July 22, 2008 but the revision terminated on July 28, 2008 when Mendoza withdrew his own protest because the counted recalled in Pagdanganan gaining 46,124 votes.

Based on the summary of votes and certificates of canvassers, Pagdanganan got 348,834 votes as against 303,388 for Mendoza for the whole province of Bulacan, or a margin of 45,292 votes for Mendoza. However, spurious and marked ballots from the pro-Pagdanganan landed 46,000, which had to be deducted from Mendoza. The votes to be deducted from Pagdanganan amounted to only 1,797. The grand total of votes after revision was 350,631 for Pagdanganan, and only 299,497 for Mendoza, a margin of 46,134 in favor of Pagdanganan.

On Feb. 5, 2009, the Senate Electoral Tribunal (SET), because of the electoral protest of Rufo Pimentel against Sen. Migz Zubiri, issued a resolution directing the revision of ballots boxes, election documents and paraphernalia from seven provinces, including Bulacan.

As a result, Mendoza filed a Motion for Suspension of Further Proceedings on March 27, 2009, arguing that all the election documents necessary for the proper and valid resolution of the election protest were not in the custody of the Comelec.

Pagdanganan argued that his poll protest was already submitted for resolution upon the submission of memoranda by the two parties on Feb. 10 and 25, 2009. After which, no action or proceeding the Comelec may undertake in the resolution of the case. Like the examination or appreciation of the contested ballots, the justices would no longer have any part in the case subsequent.

On April 29, 2009, the Comelec denied the motion of Mendoza. On May 11, 2009, Mendoza filed a motion for reconsideration. On May 26, the Comelec denied the motion.

Mendoza then filed a petition for prohibition and certiorari with the Supreme Court. And there the case languishes.

Meanwhile, time flies; the governor's term is expiring next year. Will the winning candidate be proclaimed with only a week or two of his term left? Justice delayed is justice denied.

TODAY'S JOKES: The long queues during Cory Aquino's wake have spawned many jokes. Here's one:

Interviewed by the long wait, a mourner gave up. "Aysha na," he said. "Tiet na ko. Mo sayin ko sa ang mamang a Ghlo. Sgawalo wenng pila sa hatol iya."

Another person waiting in line disagreed with him. "On the contrary, I think the queues are only so wake would be longer."

"Why?"

"Because people would seem to make sure that she is really dead."

When construction cranes fall

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

LAST MONTH, A 30-FOOT TOWER CRANE fell from the top of a building, hitting a car and almost killing its passengers, including an infant and the grandmother. It happened right in the heart of the Ortigas business district, along Topaz Road close to the busy Robinson's Galleria shopping mall at around noon. That crane would have snapped just several feet in one left swoop. It could've been any of us.

The early assessment was "a combination out" to protect passing cars and passengers from falling debris, but it was obviously no match for a falling construction crane. Yet, based on what I heard over the radio, the insist that the erring company offered man to pay the victims the cost of the total wreck of the car, not for their car, a Mazda. That kind of an offer shows the primitive state of our tort liability laws or, to be more precise, their underenforcement—and somewhat, the weakness of the local consumer movement. In the movement is more active and effective in the United States, you can imagine the suit. Tons of dollars that will be offered to settle the case to fend off litigation. A measly reimbursement for a damaged car is an insult not just to the victim family but to the public.

I say early assessment, the "tort explosion" in US law is strictly limited and celebrated event in recent turf. The most notorious example is the McDonald's case, where a woman bought coffee from the drive-in window, placed that cup of coffee between her legs, spilled the coffee and was hospitalized for third degree burns. In a "runaway jury verdict," she was awarded $200,000 in compensatory damages and $2.7 million in punitive damages, equivalent to Mr. Donald's gross receipts for two days of coffee sales (reduced by the court to $480,000).

The tort explosion has also led to ridiculous product warnings that warn of the obvious. Read the message etched on your side view mirror: Objects in mirror are closer than they appear. (My personal favorite is the Japanese translation in instruction manual for a hair dryer: Do not insert in water while the hair dryer is in use. Trumpet at him melodiously at first, but if he still obstructs your passage, then tootle him with vigor.")

We have opened the US path because we fear the "slippery slope." Yet precisely for that reason, we are forced to put up with defective traffic lights, ill-placed and barely visible U-turn markers, failing computerized tickets, or the like matters. But police are issuing "counter-flow" on Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City at the height of the rush hour yesterday (not today). Pre-debate slippery-floor shows you can slip and fall even if you're wearing a non-slip shoe, and yet (also) you have to pay where students can be held up or molested, spoil milk or bean juice from grocery stores that failed to use proper refrigeration. If all these pays know that they or their office will be held to answer for their negligence and stupidity, they will exercise more diligence.

We need to look at how as instruments by which we shape peoples' behavior, by which we create incentives and disincentives. Not to say the law provides for different kinds of damages: compensatory damages to replace the value actually lost, punitive damages (to punish) and exemplary damages (to make an example of the tort feasor). Culturally we may be more intuitively inclined toward criminal sanctions—which the press shouts with theatrical gusto—instead of the civil sanction by increasing fines at the culprit—but we assume a higher burden of proof, and typically end up penalizing the small by only by shifting to tort liability we avoid those problems and reduce the deficit to the rational calculation of costs and benefits. A case of fire code violation may pay to Ortigas, what to dissipate, a functioning and well-secured tower crane, or 10.0 million in punitive and exemplary damages?

Sure there are many arguments for us to pay on this. After all we are a poor country and US-scale awards will make it difficult for US companies to invest or do business there, they say. I can also imagine the anti-import advocate argument: because our liability and the only companies that will survive are the giant US conglomerates who can absorb such losses and who will drive the Filipino competitors to the ground. Wealthy, there based the families or guanine with tort reform, everybody loses except the gold insurance companies.

Such fears are premature, if not misplaced. One, in the Philippines, such awards will be decided not by "a jury of one's peers," but by a professionally trained judge. Seven there will be the occasional populist judge who thinks he's one of those TV judges, but if the true is that at the runaway jury, the Philippine answer is, we don't have runaway judges.

Two, it doesn't matter who causes the damage, foreign or local. In the insurance oil spill, the fishermen and their families suffered. The pollutant was Petron. Should they have suffered more if it had been Shell? Or imagine the "sea monster" scenario: if, God forbid, the jobster had been foreign.

There, foreign or local, they face the same risks and will be similarly covered by insurance. In either words, the controlling factor is the peril insured against, not the nationality of the insurer.

Four, I agree: the insurance industry will cry all the way to the bank. But the cost of building only lower cranes and the cost of insuring against defective cranes are legitimate costs of doing business. And we must insist, for scientific consistency, the insurance companies, to lobby for safety measures and clearer standards. They need them for their own sakes.

If it was your family riding that Mazda or soon on Topaz Road, would you rest with the thought that a deadly irresponsible construction with rest awards?

(Comment to jesuisnepr@gmail.com)

Beginnings of political realignments

THE SHOCK RESIGNATION OF SOCIOECONOMIC Planning Secretary Ralph Recto, effective on Aug. 16, sent administration officials scurrying with latter explanations to prevent it from unleashing an avalanche of defections ahead of the Nov. 30 deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy for the May 2010 national elections.

Recto quit after serving in the Arroyo Cabinet for only one year. He lost in the May 2007 election, which resulted in a debacle for the administration's senatorial ticket. Known as an independent-minded senator, Recto was appointed to head the National Economic and Development Authority to give the Cabinet a semblance of credibility.

Recto's resignation announcement was terse. A Malacañang statement said he resigned "to explore other career opportunities, possibly the Senate, or the House of Representatives." "We can't run the risk of him and run (for the Senate) at the same time," Recto said. "Recto is a left-time work. It's unfair for the institutions, unfair for the people."

Some senators in Recto's old Senate department were triggered by a row with Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes over the pricing of Smc.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita tried to minimize the impact of the resignation, saying that the "believers in the system" are still there. Ermita names the worst, and therefore he wants to be able to move around more freely in preparation for the 2010 election," he added that President Macapagal Arroyo did not want to mind in the affairs of her political allies.

Even himself conceded that his sponsorship of the expanded value added tax (EVAT) law was "one of the many reasons" he failed to be reelected to the Senate.

Ermita said in a back handed compliment, "As you know Senator Recto did not make it during his first reelection (in 2007). I suppose this time he is going to prepare in earnest so he can be successful in his second reelection bid in the Senate."

Why then, it should be asked, should the EVAT issue not damage Recto's electoral chances in 2009? If this were the case, then the administration has a good reason to let him go and bid him adieu whether he resigns or on the Kampi Lakas coalition ticket. The option would be political enemies because he would be hated by the supporters of the President. He is rumored as considering running on the ticket of the Nacionalista Party of Sen. Manuel Villar.

Signs of a political realignment following the Nov. 30 registration deadline have been bolstered by a statement of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, an ally of President Arroyo, that she would support Villar for president and Jejomar Binay for vice president. Binay, who is the mayor of former President Cory Aquino, the presidential race has become open for entry at new names. In the wake of the groundswell of public sympathy for Aquino, a cluster has started to push for Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III to run for president or vice president. The Aquino legacy and name cast a magic spell again.

Aquino remains coy and seems determined about his political plans. But the movement to draft him as a candidate for either position has political allies in the Senate with positive results, though not necessarily outstanding performance.

Dynastic succession have left many cynical. That the method of political recruitment has led to desirable results. An example, Cory's decision to fill the leadership vacuum left by the assassination of her husband, former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. Some scions of political families have been disasters

Many thanks, Professor Randy

JUST TO THANK RANDY DAVID for his thoughtful "summing up" of Gov Aquino's presidency, its achievements as well as its shortcomings. Discourse, 8/8/09. As always, David makes his reasoned analysis succinctly, without rhetorical bombast or hyperbole. He reminds us – as he does in almost every single column he has written – that citizenship, like leadership, is both a privilege and a responsibility.

That it is hard to rain the ill-gotten people in task for being so impatient about everything. After all, we have suffered so much already.

We must also never ever forget how Juan Ponce Enrile, Gloria Arroyo and their cohol of opportunists, through their repeated attempts to topple a popularly and constitutionally legitimate government (the Aquino government never it has been), derailed and demonized what would have been the basic, however fragile and imperfect, democratic institutions of growth. It is not enough to describe this group merely as "treacherous." They are pure and simple traitors, and must be called as such.

Finally, David is right to point out that it was the Filipino people who turned Cory's death into a historical, not just another media, event. The massive outpouring of grief was the Filipino people's simple, heartfelt and genuine expression of gratitude and love. It was also a powerful reminder that contrary to conventional wisdom, the Filipinos are neither passive nor resigned. It may seem in hindsight like a "no-brainer" on their part, but I believe that the Aquino children took a risk when they categorically refused a state funeral for their mother capturing what was an already overwhelming outrage of peasants, Hacienderistas, dasses and emotional blackmail from Malacañang and its cronies (eg loyal servants). They deserve credit for the principled stand they took, and for the way they supported their decision.

What the Aquino family hoped for, and got, was a people's funeral. The latter must ultimately be seen as the unequivocal repudiation of President Macapagal-Arroyo's rogue regime.

—ALEXANDER CORTES,
dryscortes@yahoo.com

It was Lazalt who phoned Marcos 'to cut and cut clean'

BELINDA OLIVEROS-CUSHMAN committed an error when she mentioned in her July 20 column that it was first Richard Lugar of Indiana who told Ferdinand Marcos, "Cut and cut clean, Mr. President."

Actually, it was Sen. Paul Laxalt who uttered those words when he placed a call to Malacañang at 5:20 a.m. of Tuesday, Feb. 25, 1986.

Marcos sounded tired. "Senator, what do you think?" he asked. "Should I step down?"

"I think you should cut and cut clean," Laxalt responded immediately. "I think the time has come."

The effect was almost as though Laxalt had physically thrust the despondent Marcos there was no option left. Laxalt, the effusive he'd been disconcerted. "Mr. President," he finally said, "are you still there?"

"I'm here, Senator," Marcos answered softly. "I'm very, very disappointed."

(Excerpt from the book "Hawk Dying Free" by Lewis M. Simons)

—RICK R. MORTEL,
MBA 1 Court,
Molavelina,
Bacolod City (6100)

Iloilo's growing illegal drug trade

METRO MANILA MAY NOT BE aware of what is happening right here in your town. But there are many drug-off points for illegal drugs in Ajuy, Sara, Estancia, Concepcion, Balasan and Dumangas, to name some towns. And behind this illegal trade are local politicians. Many barangay officials are also involved. The capital for this illegal trade is provided by some prominent businessmen.

With the 2010 elections just around the corner, expect more illegal drugs coming in to better prepare now. The drugs are brought in via Iloilo seaside and the airport in Cabatuan, Iloilo.

Also unknown to the world, we can score Metro Manila's dominant in illegal drugs. And the illegal drugs manufactured in Iloilo are better than those in Cebu or Mindanao. We have advanced equipment from abroad. We have Indian drug lords operating in Thailand, Burma, Guam, Marshall, Fiji, Pompei and other Pacific islands. In short, we have the capacity to supply in all the Philippines' demand for illegal drugs. Before the year ends many foreigners from Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama will come to the Philippines to supply us cocaine, which is much stronger than shabu.

The supply of illegal drugs in Iloilo will increase in the coming months. Watch out.

—EPHELLIN SARDUA,
ns_sarroza@yahoo.com

Gov't has sustainable dev't framework

THIS RESPONDS TO THE NEWS REport "Environment suffered badly, say critics." (Business, 7/27/09) In the interest of balanced reporting, please allow us to point out a few facts.

Under the current administration, a record number of national environmental laws (17 in all) have been legislated to address management, conservation management, conservation management, solid waste management, conservation management, clean coal technology, clean air act, clean water act, ecological solid waste management, clean coal technology, renewable energy, renewable energy, renewable energy

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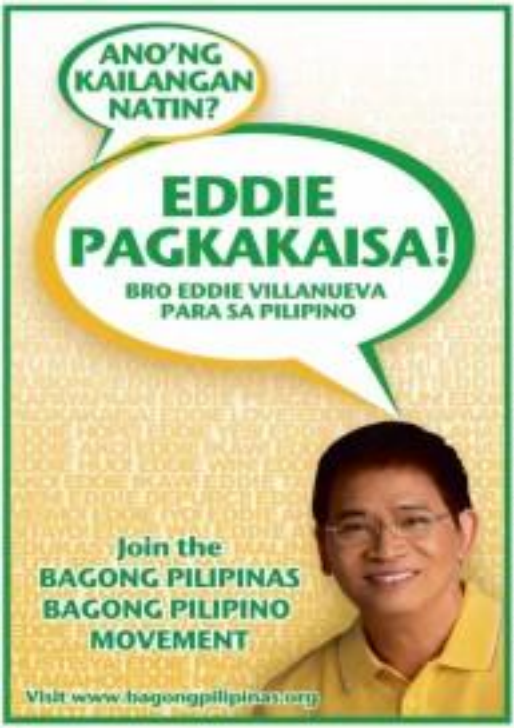

Head of Tesda, mayor face raps over fund misuse

'It was a personal check with a blank recipient ... It was deposited in our town's trust fund'

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—CRIMINAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE charges were filed against Augusto Syjuco, head of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), and an Iloilo town mayor over alleged irregularities in a P5-million education program.

In a five-page complaint filed at the Office of the Ombudsman-Iloilo field office here on Wednesday, Iloilo provincial administrator Manuel Mejaredo accused Syjuco of violating provisions of the public Act No. 3019, or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act in the alleged diversion of funds for the Education for All program, implemented in 2004 when Syjuco was representative of Iloilo's second district.

Another park

The project, funded from Syjuco's Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), is both buried, and implemented in the district's eight towns, including Tagbaraan Tagipusun Foundation. Mejaredo is part of the second congressional district in Iloilo.

Mejaredo, former chief of staff of Syjuco before they had a falling out, is planning to run as vice governor against Syjuco's wife, Rep. Judy Syjuco, or the Tesda chief in next year's elections.

Mejaredo is also a close political aide of Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas Jr., who is a Syjuco rival.

Cannot be reached

The Inquirer tried to contact Syjuco for his side but he did not reply to at least two text messages and five phone calls from the Inquirer since 8:30 a.m. until noon yesterday although his mobile phone continued ringing.

In claiming that there was padding in the project cost, Mejaredo cited the project's accomplishment report which showed that the total costs of school uniforms were higher than the actual costs.

In the accomplishment report submitted by Tagipusun Foundation, 3,554 pieces of pants costing P1,000 each collected a total of P995,120 under the total should be P659,720.

Likewise, 2,545 pieces of blouses costing P725 each had a total cost of P662,625 instead of the actual P368,725. The report also stated that the total cost of 3,470 pieces of shirts at P195 each was P1,025,650 instead of P676,650.

The difference in the totals amounted to P986,487, according to Mejaredo.

Founder

He alleged that the foundation is a front set up by Syjuco as a channel for the release of funds for the project. He said Syjuco was founder of the foundation.

Mejaredo said in his complaint that on Sept. 8, 2004, the P750,000, representing 15 percent of the project fund, was disbursed to the Tagipusun Foundation.

But the official receipt indicated the address of the foundation was No. 9 Mabini St., Sta. Barbara, Iloilo, the residential address of Syjuco.

On Oct. 25, 2004, Cristina delegedly approved the payment of P3,808,092 to Tagipusun Foundation. The amount is 76.16 percent of the total and way above the 10 percent set by COA guidelines for the second tranche of the fund releases.

Bribery

But Carreon said there was no violation of COA rules because he only released P-all of the funds after the foundation reported that the project was 90 percent complete.

Mejaredo also accused Syjuco and Carreon of bribery, citing publication of Gerbarda that he was given a P250,000 check by Ernesto Tristan Isabella, executive director of Tagipusun Foundation.

The check, given on Dec. 6, 2004, the day the final payment for the project worth P441,200 was made to the foundation, was purportedly the 5-percent "commission" promised by Syjuco to the mayor for agreeing to be the conduit of the fund, Mejaredo said.

'May five ka dito'

He denied that he agreed to be the conduit of the project because he was allegedly promised a 5-percent commission but he admitted that during a phone conversation with Syjuco, the Tesda chief told him: "May five ka dito (You have five here)."

Carreon said he did not reply to or react to Syjuco's comment.

However, he confirmed that Isabella gave him a P250,000 check.

"It was a personal check with a blank recipient. I had the check addressed to the municipality and Tesda and caused it cash to our municipal treasurer and account immediately after I got it. It was deposited in our town's trust fund," Carreon said.

Asked why he accepted the check, Carreon said he believed the money would be of help to his town.

Army says NPA reb dead, 1 surrenders after clash

LUCENA CITY—AN ALLEGED New People's Army rebel was killed in a clash with government forces in Occidental Mindoro Wednesday, a military official said Thursday.

Another rebel surrendered after the clash, said Lt. Colonel Frank Gratuito, spokesperson of the Army's 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division based in Tanay, Rizal.

Gratuito said the at around 1:15 p.m. soldiers from the military's 2nd IB 80th Infantry Battalion under Lt. Mario Juan Blanco encountered a band of communist rebels, led by one "Ka Henry," in Sitio Kaddilop in Barangay Lagnas, Sablayan town.

The two groups exchanged gunshots for about 30 minutes, after which the rebels withdrew in the north, Gratuito said.

The clash resulted in the death of a communist rebel, whose name was not told. The rebel casualty was still carrying magazines for ammunition, documents and personal belongings when his body was found.

The dead rebel's firearm was not only his namesake, soldiers said.

A group of rebels fleeing the clash site was encountered by another team of soldiers in Barangay Silaisilayan. Duffie T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

12,000 growers protest rampant smuggling of onions into RP

CABANATUAN CITY—SOME 12,000 onion growers here are protesting what they said was rampant smuggling that has flooded the market with imported onions, keeping local harvests stuck in cold storage plants.

Rodolfo Nieves, board chair of the Kamanggang ng mga Samahang Magsasaka sa Nueva Ecija (Kasamang), said 967,800 bags of onions produced in the country are kept in warehouses in Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Pampanga and Bulacan.

"Their small volume has reached 23.2 million kg valued at P625 million, he said.

"They have been there since March. They could not be marketed because of the glut in the market of onions from China and India," he said.

Nieves said the growers are ours onions from their countries were smuggled in duty were sold by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) that no permit to import onions had been issued.

"Those smuggled onions are being sold at P40 a kilogram. "We cannot compete with that pricing because of our high expense in production, hauling, handling and storage fees," Nieves said.

He said the wholesale price of locally produced onions is P36-40 a kg.

Keep five percent of onions produced in the country come from Nueva Ecija. More than 18,000 farmers in this province are engaged in onion growing and production.

Asked why onions produced abroad are cheaper, Nieves said local production costs are higher.

He said local farmers spend P11,000 per hectare for imported seeds alone.

"The dollars surge in production owned no additional expense of at least P100,000 a hectare. For storage, the fee is P180 per bag for seven months exclusive of the expenses for hauling, trucking, sorting and turning (to prevent rotting and developing roots)," he said.

Despite strict rules on importation, onions from abroad continue to flood the market. Most of these onions arrive in reliably reduced rates to accommodate ports.

"They should not have been released as they were not covered by import permits," Nieves said.

His group, composed of 17 onion growers' cooperatives, has sent resolutions to several government agencies calling for a halt in onion smuggling but nothing has been done about it, he said.

"Our onion farmers are now crying. We have to save our loans. Please help us," Nieves said. Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon

Iloilo folk recall loud noise, mud flowing down

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

TUBUNGAN, ILOILO—HERA Abellana could not sleep for one night since Friday as loud noise rolled from the mountains and mud came flowing closer to her house in this mining hamlet.

"We were most afraid at night when we couldn't see the rocks, but we could hear the rumbling as they rolled on the mountainsides," she said.

"We could also hear cracking and splashing sounds as rocks collided and when they hit the creek," Abellana said in the town's gymnasium where her family fled and sought shelter since Sunday morning.

Abellana, 37, along with husband Felipe and their three children aged six months to 7 years old, fled their home after the rocks came nearer. They left most of their belongings and all their farm animals.

"We just brought our clothes and a few things of our children," she said.

The Abellanas are among 240 families that were evacuated from the villages of Igtalic and Molina in Tubungan, a town 42 km north of Iloilo City, after landslides threatened to bury their houses on Sunday.

Some of those evacuated were shifted from remote areas, which could not be reached by motor personnel.

Calamity state

The municipal council passed a resolution on Tuesday placing the town under a state of calamity to facilitate the release of funds for relief assistance.

No casualties have been reported. However, the evacuees are cramped in the gymnasium, the main evacuation center, and in the town's day care center and Kaagapay ning Kabarangay Hall. Several others are temporarily staying with their relatives in other barangays.

Relief assistance from government agencies and donations from private institutions and individuals have come in as the evacuees have been dependent on donated food.

Most of the victims are sleeping on mats or a few folding chairs provided by the municipal government and other relief agencies. Some slept on the few bags or boxes containing their belongings.

Children pass their time at the evacuation center playing or sleeping. Some of the children are sick.

"It's so hard here but we can't go elsewhere," said Abellana.

Igtalic village chief Patricia Entrusher said the whole village of 223 families evacuated to escape the path of the rocks and mudflow.

Farms gone

Entrusher said at least 20 hectares of farms have been covered by rocks and soil while cracks developed after continued rains loosened the ground.

"We lose that we will not have farms to go back to anymore when we return to our barangay," she said the losses.

Entrusher said they left a few village watchmen behind to guard their houses and belongings.

Abellana said they left most of their clothes and belongings, including a TV set inside their house.

"We hope our things will still be there when we come back," she said.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources sent municipal officials, led by Mayor Victor Tubagalupa, were still evaluating the safety of the villages before residents are sent home.

Entrusher said their stay at the evacuation center becomes more difficult each passing day.

Brgy. Mabilan Dee, the town's parish priest, has appealed for assistance to the victims.

"They need more food and clothes and medicines urgently and if it's possible for them to return to their homes, a relocation site should be provided," Dee said.

RESIDENTS of Tubungan, Iloilo, find temporary shelter at the town's gymnasium after they were forced to flee their homes because of the risk of getting buried in landslides.

House, Senate approve new CamSur district

NAGA CITY—THE BILL THAT creates a new district in Camarines Sur, increasing to five the existing four districts in the province, has been approved by the Senate and the House, a lawmaker here said Sunday.

Rep. Luis R. Villafuerte, Camarines Sur second district representative, said the bill that creates the additional district, which would be carved out from the 35-town first district here, had been passed in the house without opposition.

Villafuerte said the Senate version had been met with opposition but when it was submitted for voting, 13 senators voted in its favor.

"That's more than the majority of the senators," he added.

He said he expected the final approval of Camarines Sur's additional congressional district in September, barely two months before the start of the filing of candidacies for elective positions.

Arroyo's district

The first district of Camarines Sur is represented in the House by presidential son Rep. Diosdado Arroyo.

Arroyo built a house in Pasacao, Libmanan town in 2008 as residential residence and qualify in the congressional race. He ran again in Pangasinan.

Formerly the political turf of Arroyo's congressman and wife, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr., whose hometown is the neighboring Bagay the first district of Camarines Sur has been handed to Arroyo after Andaya was appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to head the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) four years ago.

But critics here see political maneuvering in the creation of the new district.

Villafuerte said the new district will be carved out from the municipalities of Pasacao, Libmanan, Minalabac, Pamplona, San Fernando and Milaor in the southwest part of the province.

The northeast area covers the coastal town of Caramoan and the inland municipalities of Sipocot, Lupi, Ragay (Andaya's hometown) and Del Gallego along the Quirino Highway going to Quezon province.

The House and Senate bills will put Libmanan (Arroyo's adopted residence) and Ragay (Andaya's hometown) in separate districts. Jun Ll-Canalor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Pinatubo flood deaths called 'act of nature'

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The chief of police in Capas, Tarlac, has cleared private agencies, local officials and rescuers of criminal liability in the death of three foreign tourists and two Filipinos in floods at the foot of Mt. Pinatubo as the height of Typhoon "Kiko" on Aug. 8.

"The incident is purely an act of nature, unforeseen and unpredictable, therefore no agency or anybody should be blamed or made accountable," Supt. Joven Patrick Bangoloan said in an Aug. 12 memorandum that summed up the findings of a police investigation.

"We conducted a massive investigation considering that all concerned agencies," Bangoloan added, referring to the registration of the two batches of foreign tourists—French and Belgian tourists—12 in all—at the visitors' center of the Pinatubo Initiated Communities Corp. (PICC) in Barangay Sta. Juliana and their leaving of guides there.

Quoting witnesses with the involved, Bangoloan said the groups were up when the weather was sunny and rushed down last them hour later when strong rains hit the area.

He did not say in his report if the guides, Bernardo Ordonio, 39, and a resident in the village, had advised caution.

Ordonio died with Alastair Clarke, 32, and Thierry Gallez, 40, both French; and Walter Alfons Heydemans, 40, a Belgian. A village watchman, Frederick Reyla, died in rescue operations.

Bangoloan said a group met a landslide as their vehicle descended while two vehicles got stuck in the river down the highway. Shooter rains carried by the local government in the witness.

Rolando Tinsiano, director of the Department of Tourism in Central Luzon, had asked concern for the safety of the visitors because it was their first visit to environmental-tourism certificate.

In his report, Bangoloan did not say why the tourists registered with the PICC and hired guides there instead of doing those at the Sta. Juliana Tourism Council. The guides there had been trained by the DOT in mountain survival and trek adventure.

Pre-investigation sites established that the tourists hired drivers and rebates to Angeles City and not in Sta. Juliana where the drivers are more familiar with the scenic and resorts. Rosalie Dreyka, Inquirer Central Luzon

FLOOD VICTIMS in Barangay Zambales, Mabalacat, Pampanga, ride a tricycle on the height of Typhoon "Kiko."

Duque says misconception hounds generics

CLARK FREEPORT, PAMPANGA—Though generic medicines are efficient, most Filipinos refuse to take them, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said here on Thursday.

This is because, he said, most Filipinos prefer branded medicines over the cheaper generic ones, which they think are not effective.

"Filipinos would say generic medicines are low-quality, but they're not," he said during the Central Luzon Bodies ng Barangay Zonal Summit here.

"They have this belief that when it's cheap, it's useless. Not anymore," he added.

Duque said the current participants that he is negotiating with pharmaceutical companies for them to reduce prices of branded medicines.

He said the Department of Health has made available generic drugs in more village pharmacies, which, to date, number 15,000 nationwide.

On Friday, drug stores are to present to reduce prices of basic medicines by 50 percent as mandated by the cheaper medicines law.

Pharmaceutical firms, mostly multinationals, have lobbied heavily to stop government from bringing medicine prices down. Charissa Capadlyah, Inquirer Central Luzon

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Family declines Libingan burial

From page A1

"Our family decided to bury him in San Quintin (Pangasinan) because his family and friends are here," Evangelista's sister Imelda, Dennis, said yesterday.

The last time the family of Evangelista saw him was in May when he came for a two-week vacation in Barangay Alac in San Quintin.

"He came home for our reunion and town fiesta, after which he was assigned in Mindanao," Dennis told the Inquirer by phone.

Evangelista was based at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija as a member of the 4th Special Operations Command before his assignment to Mindanao.

Dennis described his brother as "cheerful and helpful, and loved playing with his nephews and nieces."

The last time they talked, Dennis, a municipal government employee, asked his brother to help send his two children, now in Grade 2 and kindergarten, to college.

"I told him that since my income was minimal and my job was on renewance with the mayor, could he help send my children in college if I don't find work there. He tearfully said, 'Ako bahala (Leave it to me).'"

Evangelista also helped send his youngest sister to a nursing school and promised to spend for her board exam review.

Their father, Feliel, is now in Manila awaiting for his son's body.

Barela had premonition

The family of the other Army officer killed in the Basilan fighting, First Lt. Chester Barela, of the Scout Rangers, said that Barela seemed to have had premonition about what lay ahead.

They said that at the end of a rare 20-day vacation with his family in Floridablanca, Pampanga, Barela had a heavy heart leaving.

"Mom, I don't want to leave but I must go. There's duty," Yolanda recandonel her 29-year-old son telling her before he left for Basilan on Aug. 5.

"It seemed he had a premonition," she said.

No regrets

Barela's father, Walter, a retired master sergeant in the Philippine Air Force, said he had no regrets over his son's death. "He died for the country and service," Walter said.

Barela, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 2004, joined the military because "he grew up in a camp and he mingled with soldiers. He is," said Walter.

Yolanda said she also had no regrets because her son died in combat.

"A friend of mine told me all soldiers die in battle and for that she considers my son a hero," Yolanda said.

Malacañang dismisses ex-envoy's claim

From page A1

tion and asked him if the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus could be invoked with the US government.

De Venecia said the move would target the political opposition, Bel Romulo-Puruganan. He said he rejected the idea, saying it was "not defensible."

Under a suspended writ of habeas corpus, a person can be arrested and detained without charges.

Del Rosario also said he later reported what had transpired to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, "who looked forcefully on me having taken a clear and firm position."

Not GMA representative

Nat Cobus, a deputy spokesperson of Ms Arroyo, maintained that De Venecia had "not represented the President in any given time."

De Venecia was a staunch supporter of Ms Arroyo until he was ousted as Speaker in February 2008, in the wake of his son's request on the government's controversial $329-million National Broadband Network deal with China's ZTE Corp.

Also commenting on Del Rosario's account, Gabriel Claudio, Mr Arroyo's political advisor, said Romulo's position reflected the administration's position on the issue on Venecia's.

"If the account is accurate, let's take it from the position of Secretary Romulo, which was one of membership," Claudio said on the phone. "That's a more accurate representation of the position of the executive branch."

Cobus also cautioned that Romulo's claim that the US government sent Ambassador John Negroponte via Manila to dissuade Ms Arroyo from declaring a state of emergency has done the worst should with it in February 2006.

"Much can be speculated on the trip of former Ambassador Negroponte, but the most important thing here is, it's the duty of the President to protect and preserve our constitution, and [it] has given [her] enough powers to protect it and protect [the] citizens – and that's what this President did," Cobus said.

"To preserve our Constitution and the country, the President declared a state of emergency," he said.

'Nothing to douse'

At for JV think tank Global Source's observation that the late former President Corazon Aquino virtually busted any attempt by the Arroyo administration to declare martial law or emergency rule, Cobus said: "There's no martial law scenario."

In an Aug. 13 report titled "The Road Ceasefire," the think tank said the memory of a massive crowd at the Aug. 8 funeral of Aquino had doused early scenarios on martial law or emergency rule.

But Claudio said: "In the first place there's nothing to douse. I am not aware of such a scenario having been contemplated at all."

'Brazen'

At the house, strings greeted Del Rosario's account.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and fellow opposition Senators Alan Peter Cayetano, Francis Pangilinan and Francis Escudero separately denounced the administration's "brazen" move to vest its power when it was under siege by fallout from the "Hello Garci" scandal.

The senators, all lawyers, called on the public not to let its guard down and declared that the Senate would continue to oppose any tendency to slide back into emergency rule.

"The problem is [Ms Arroyo's] fear of facing charges and going to jail, hence, regardless with the lawlessness in doing anything to get powers and stay in power," Cayetano said in a phone interview.

Cayetano, who, as congressman, was among those who pushed Ms Arroyo's impeachment in 2005 and 2006, said many feel convinced that some sort of emergency rule was the administration's "last card."

He called on the public to be vigilant, saying the President "showed she is willing to go that far in the past." He cited the arrests of militant party-list lawmakers, the raid on the Tribune newspaper and the issuance of Executive Order No. 464.

EO 464 prohibits government officials from attending congressional inquiries without the President's prior consent.

"Even her close allies like former Speaker Jose de Venecia and Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz have claimed there is such a plan [for emergency rule]," Cayetano said.

Credible witnesses

Escudero, who twice led impeachment drives against Ms Arroyo as House minority leader, said "the tendency is clear, given her use of net salaries on the [military], how she quelled 'false ill,' lassoed EO 464, and appointed retired military officers as close advisers."

"This is a dangerous tendency that we should nip in all cost given that it's not to ensure public safety but, rather, the preservation of security [of the First Family]," Escudero said.

Pimentel said Del Rosario was the latest in a long list of credible witnesses attesting that Ms Arroyo had explored the imposition of martial law in the past.

"But allies like JDV was one of the closest to her. It can be relied upon as an indication of the kind of doubtblank that the administration is always engaged in," Pimentel said.

"I think that the Filipino people are weary of the pronouncements of the President, whether Cheche gets meant to enhance the liberties of the people or to promote their own agenda," he said.

Pangilinan said he was not surprised at Del Rosario's disclosure.

"Malacañang's propensity to violate the Constitution is on severe. We should ensure that we do not let our guard down. The people's eternal vigilance is the only safeguard against dictatorship and tyranny," Pangilinan said.

Prebiotics: the new nutritional discovery

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For a healthy digestive system

Palace slams media to justify NY, DC dinners

First page A1

united what he called "the character assassination being launched by tabloids pursuing themselves off as broadsheets and some newsprint men operating as news broadcasters."

Only on Wednesday, Ms. Arroyo's election lawyer Romulo Macalintal lectured media outfits on this "triviality" of questioning the propriety of the $220,000 dinners.

Macalintal said the media had no business raising the issue when media owners continued to earn millions of pesos by unconscionably publicized ads vilifying the law against premature campaigning.

Media as enemy

But Sen. Mar Roxas assailed "blister-attack dogs" for zeroing on the media following the public uproar over reports on the expensive dinner at Le Cirque.

"Media are not the problem, media are the messenger. What media are reflected in the mirror is simply the truth," Roxas said in a statement intended as a response to Macalintal's remarks.

Mar hoped talaga ng media ito sisihin nalahat pong mga sarapan ng mga opisyal. (They have the guts to berate ministers of the media instead of just saying sorry!) They don't know how to respond to the issue anymore because they have seen how outraged the public is right now," he said.

The senator said Ms Arroyo and her entourage of politicians and Cabinet members should have exercised prudence during their trip to the United States.

"They were representing the country to a foreign land. They have put the country in shame. These reports came out in the American media. While Filipinos suffer back home, there they were burning money on expensive dinners," Roxas said.

"Whether they spent public money or their own personal cash for the dinner, as they claimed, the bottom line is this: The government is numb. They burned money while Filipinos could only find lados in their pockets," he said.

'Assassins'

Golez said he was not taking off from Macalintal's tirade and clarified that he was not specifically referring to the food ambush.

"The assassins will use to restrained," he said. "Now they are spreading new poison where other dinners the presidential party had, the nature of their accommodations and the manner of their transportation throughout the official trip."

Golez, who was not part of Ms Arroyo's entourage in her latest trip to the United States, said it was Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez who had floated the bill, or Bobby Ilan's Steakhouse in Washington. (See cartoon story on Page A2.)

He said Ms Arroyo had merely accommodated her generous host, and did not bother with the cost of the dinner out of "respect."

"If you are so riveted green, normally, [you] don't ask the host about the food that they will serve, or ask how much they paid for that," he said.

Golez said the controversy did not center on propriety but whether Ms Arroyo's critics would "step in anything in their endless campaign against a President who is no longer over in the running."

"Will they respect the constitutional importance of the office the occupies? Can they refrain from feeding the rest of us to imagine senseless only as perpetual victims and objects of charity? Can they rise above the limitations of vindictive ideologies or personal ambition?" he said.

'Come clean'

At a press conference, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. called on the Palace to come clean on the expensive dinners.

"I think the only remedy is for the Palace to come down and to state categorical statement...not contradictory explanations," Pimentel said.

"But no matter what they do, it will appear that they are really insensitive to the plight of the people, and especially in that period of national mourning [for former President Corazon Aquino] that was proclaimed by the President herself," he said.

Pimentel called on Macalintal to stick to electoral matters.

"[Macalintal's] official] are just trying to deflect the issue. It's an old trick in argumentation and debate that if you can't give straight answers, you will attack [one's] physical appearance," Pimentel said, adding:

"When [Macalintal] says that the media are rumored because of the ads of the 'president-tabloid,' that Malacañang should start unveiling out the immoral persons in her Cabinet, who are also doing infomercials. We should start with them."

P1.7M in all

In another statement, Sen. Pia Cayetano said the Palace was missing the point in ridding the media to stop discussing on the expensive dinners that, she noted, amounted to $50,000 or roughly P1.7 million.

"Make no mistake that we acknowledge the decision of President Arroyo to meet with US President Barack Obama, and that her contingent would invariably incur reasonable expenses related to the...visit, but to travel with an entourage of over 30 people and to spend that much for two meals? That is just not much," Cayetano said.

"And from the looks of it, they do not even see what is wrong with the picture," she said.

Cayetano said no amount of her training and diversionary tactics by Ms Arroyo's men would temper the people's indignation over the dinners at Bobby Ilan's Steakhouse and Le Cirque.

She also took Macalintal to task for saying that media companies themselves had been occupying the "moneyed" seats by profiting from the infomercials of presidential spinners.

"If Malacañang is wondering why people are getting angried, it's because of their spokespersons who try to take on for fools with their arrogance and inconsiderate ways of responding to issues. Imagine insulting the people and blaming the media for their insults during?" Cayetano said.

House inquiry

Militant lawmakers yesterday filed a resolution for the House of Representatives to investigate the "unnecessary" Le Cirque dinner, saying it was tantamount to a gift that the President was prohibited from accepting under the law.

"Even if no people's money were used to pay for the bill, all government officials are prohibited from accepting any substantial gift—such as a million-peso dinner—on any occasion. It is not only unethical but also criminal to have had that extravagantly expensive dinner. It is also for the job of those in the legislative to grant leave and defend the extravagances and excesses of the executive branch," Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño and Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza said in the resolution.

In a statement, the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said there should be at least "some benefit they and humanity" from the President and her spokespersons in explaining the expensive dinners reported by the US media.

"At this point, people deserve to know the full extent of the spending done by the President's entourage during their trip to the US," Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said.

Dined like kings twice

"We detest the arrogance and utter lack of remorse being shown by this administration. What is happening is simply disgusting. They dined like kings, not once, but twice!" Reyes said.

He added: "Have they no shame? ... Malacañang cannot just dismiss [the reports] as agitators propaganda. The people demand an explanation, some transparency and accountability. We cannot blame people for being outraged over these reports." With reports from Leila Salaverria and Nikko Dizon

Martin lavishes Leyteños with infra, health projects

First page A1

REP. MARTIN Romualdez of Leyte at the Willard Hotel in Washington D.C. on July 29.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

mualdez is helping us. The project that he funded in our barangay is really a big help to us," Veronica Pangil, barangay chair of Sabang in Alangalang, said on Thursday.

Romualdez, 43, has allocated P2.3 million for the construction of a farm-to-market road, which was finished just three weeks ago, Pangil said.

The second-time, 3-N lawmaker crossed the river fronting village of Adion in the town center about 9 kilometer away, as a result, delivery of produce to the market is hastened, Pangil, 61, said.

The barangay leader was interviewed while she was watching downstream for another proposed project that needs funding: a Romualdez coffee tower.

San Miguel projects

Mayor Pete Snell also disclosed that the lawmaker had approved several infrastructure projects worth over P10 million in his town of San Miguel since he assumed office in 2007. These included farm-to-market roads, bridges in interior villages and multipurpose buildings.

San Miguel is the poorest town in the first district, classified as a fifth-class municipality with an annual income of just over P15 million.

Romualdez provided similar projects in Alangalang, its mayor, Lorna Yu, said in a separate interview. Yu could not give the specific cost of the projects.

"All these projects were channeled directly to the barangays. That is why I don't have any idea how much fund he has already given to one town," Yu said over the phone.

Tanauan Mayor Roger Tu said he felt grateful that the lawmaker had funded several projects in his town of 43,886 people.

Flood control system

Among the latest projects funded through his Priority Development Assistance program is the construction of a flood control system worth about P7.5 million.

Tu, who is also the provincial chapter president of the League of the Municipal Mayors of the Philippines, said he was not affected with the controversy involving the lawmaker, a nephew of former first lady Imelda Marcos.

"In fairness to him, he gave several projects in our town and to the district," the mayor said.

Romualdez was named by Malacañang to have paid the nearly P1-million tab when the President and her group had dinner at Le Cirque in New York during her state visit early this month, generating criticisms from various groups.

City infrastructure

Engineer Angelita Opina, assistant chief of the city's subscription-writing office, said Romualdez had also given P2 million for the city's infrastructure last year.

"I can say that he is really doing his work as a congressman representing this city and serves towns of the first district. All these projects were made through a resolution submitted by the barangay officials to his office," Opina said.

These projects involve construction of multipurpose halls, covered courts, a drainage system and school buildings.

"Obviously, these projects benefited the people of the respective barangay officials for they know what they need," Opina said.

Hospital funds

Dr. Alberto de Leon, chief of Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC), said Rep. Romualdez was among the seven of the region's 12 congressmen who had allocated funds for the hospital.

Since he assumed office in 2007, Romualdez has given close to P3 million to help poor patients settle their hospital bills, laboratory tests and medicine, De Leon said.

From January up to first week of August, 3,674 poor patients were helped by the lawmaker's secretary Ana Ann Gaylon, 39, whose daughter Mishki was suffering from epilepsy.

"I have no income of my own. That is why, I consider that the congressman is giving us assistance," Gaylon said.

"He is very supportive to us in fact, through his fund, we are able to rehabilitate our emergency room: nearly P2.3 million," De Leon said.

The latest figure that Romualdez would be generous enough to help the hospital acquire a P25-million CT scan facility.

Romualdez has a pending bill as the House of Representatives seeking to increase the hospital's 250-bed capacity to 500.

Justice banned for life from practicing law

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law "indefinitely."

It was the first time in memory that a former member of the highest court of the land was barred from law practice indefinitely, which is akin to disbarment.

The sanction of barring Reyes from law practice was added to the high court's earlier penalty of a P500,000 fine and perpetual disqualification from holding any government post, and to the forfeiture of retirement benefits of an executive investigating committee.

In a resolution dated Aug. 11, the high court en banc found Reyes guilty of gross misconduct for holding a draft decision that he had prepared in the election disqualification case against Negros Oriental Rep. Jocelyn Limkaichong.

The court denied "with finality" for lack of merit Reyes' explanation and motion to set aside the court's decision on Feb. 24, 2009, that found him liable for holding the unpromulgated and confidential document.

Examples of uprightness

In its decision, which was upheld by a majority of eight out of the 15 justices, the Supreme Court said Reyes' role as the judiciary should be "living examples of uprightness."

"The image of the court is inescapably etched in the conduct and attributes of those who compose it, and who in turn are judged according to the public perception of accountability, responsibility and morality," it said.

"Thus, to court officials there is the unqualified and inviolable duty to be living examples of uprightness in the performance of official functions in order to preserve the good name and standing of the judiciary in the community," the decision said.

Too harsh

Three associate justices were also in favor of disbarring Reyes from legal practice but only for five years, as they found the indefinite suspension "too harsh."

Only one associate justice dissented, saying Reyes should first be given the right to answer the charges against him as an accused in an administrative complaint.

One justice was on leave while newly appointed Associate Justice Mendoza del Castillo and Bolante stand did not take part in the deliberations.

Court spokesperson Midas Marquez said the justices deliberated on Tuesday.

Paras vs Limkaichong

In the draft ponencia by Reyes, losing congressional candidates Olivia Paras and Louis Biraogo were their disqualification case against Limkaichong on the ground that she was Chinese and not a Filipino citizen.

Biraogo said he found a brown envelope containing the draft decision outside his house in Laguna in December 2008. He said it came from a "concerned employee" of the Supreme Court.

Biraogo complained to the media about the delay in the promulgation of the Reyes decision.

The leakage prompted allies of Paras in Congress to threaten Chief Justice Reynato Puno with impeachment for withholding the release of the draft decision.

After the investigation of the leakage and Reyes' retirement on Dec. 31, 2008, the case was transferred to ponente Ruben Reyes, who, in turn, penned the resolution finding Limkaichong innocent.

Internal probe

The internal investigation was conducted by Justice Reyes in 2008 by Supreme Court Associate Justices Leonardo Quisumbing as chair and Dondita Carpio Morales and Renato Corona as members.

The committee found that Reyes himself leaked a photocopy of the draft decision to the media and circulated to the other justices for their signatures.

It laid down evidence "particularly the evidence under item" (a) of Justice Reyes to circulate a draft ponencia of the case assumed, even before the motu proprio acts of all the parties had been."

Reyes aides also fined

Two lawyer-staff members of Reyes, Julliard staff head Rowena Evangelista and court stenographer Armando del Rosario were also ordered to pay a fine of P30,000 and P5,000, respectively, for simple neglect of duty.

"The Court is iron-clad in enforcing the rule on strict confidentiality of resolutions and decisions which are yet to be promulgated," the resolution said.

"Justice Reyes was indeed liable for gross misconduct for unofficially caused the premature leakings of his ponencia despite to its official promulgation. He violated the cardinal rule of utmost confidentiality and reasonably failed to live up to his station as a magistrate," it added.

"Those failing in any manner thereof disclosure of internal deliberations during Court sessions, or premature information about decisions en cases that are yet to be promulgated officially, are anathema to the purpose of the independence of the Court as the last bastion of justice. Definitely the Court will not allow this judicial one to remove a dent in its dignified and honorable administration of justice," it went on.

Truly saddening

The high court said it was "truly saddening" that it had to impose sanction "on a colleague who has risen from the ranks and devoted the best 33 years of his life to government service."

"But in so doing, we are [mindful] of the seriousness and gravity of his misconduct, as well as of the basis sound to prevent a possible recurrence of the same," it stressed.

Justice Reyes seeks the kind benevolence of the Court, but the Court is not constrained that even the grant of compassion itself must have an objective basis. The unprecedentable misconduct Justice Reyes exhibited far outweighs what the grant of compassion might reasonably dispense in his favor under the circumstances," the tribunal said.

Reyes stepped down on Dec. 18, 2008, as he reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 on Jan. 3, 2009.

Reyes motion

He was cold by the high court in three cases why he should not be disciplined as a lawyer. He instead filed on April 13 a motion to set aside the court's original decision finding him guilty of gross misconduct.

Reyes argued that the Supreme Court did not have the jurisdiction to discipline its own member for acts committed during his tenure. He said the power resided in an impeachment trial since Supreme Court justices were impeachable officers.

He also argued that he was not given due process as he denied the charges against him.

Precedent

But the high court en banc recalled the case of former Supreme Court Associate Justice Fidel Purisima who was fined P200,000 and censured by the court en banc in March 22, 2000, for not disclosing that his nephew, the son of his elder brother, was one of the bar examinees.

The decision was then as incumbent justice and chair of the 1999 bar exams, the court pointed out.

"While more reasons should a justice be sanctioned if he is remiss in his duties in the discharge of his administrative functions, and, already retired from the service," the court said.

The court also said the Reyes' "perceived inertia of protection and immunity" ceased to exist when he retired, as he is reverted to the status of a lawyer who is subject to sanctions for administrative offenses.

Reyes was already retired when the investigation ended.

SPORTS

Eagles, Falcons down rivals

By Jaymee M Paje

ATENEO TURNED BACK A LATE RALLY BY University of the East and held on for an 80-75 victory in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

"The win wasn't very pretty but it's a win," said Ateneo coach Norman Black after the defending champions avenged the only defeat at 7-1.

"It was a very sloppy fourth quarter, a lot of turnovers and the defense relaxed. Luckily, we had enough points to win the game."

A severe injury hardly slowed down Rabeh Al-Hussaini, who came through with a season-high 30 points for the Eagles on top of 12 rebounds and a couple of blocks.

Showing more composure, Adamson pulled off an upset by holding La Salle to its worst shooting performance in a 61-55 escapade in the first game.

"The players didn't give up despite our successive losses," said coach Leo Isaac after his Falcons snapped a five-game skid.

The cold-shooting Archers trailed 30-8 in the first quarter and sulked only nine of 43 attempts, the worst two-point clip in the league in six years.

Both the Warriors and the Archers, who came off a loss to rival Ateneo, slumped to a share of fourth place at 4-4.

Al-Hussaini, the reigning Most Valuable Player, finished just three points shy of his career-best 33 markers set against FEU last season despite spraining his ankle during the Eagles' crestfallen Sunday win, 76-72, against La Salle.

The absence of veteran center Paul Liagao told heavily on the Warriors, who trailed by as many 28 points, 50-36, before a late run anchored on Paul Lee and Val Acuña pushed the Warriors within four points, 79-75, in the last six minutes.

Liagao served a two-game suspension for fighting in an altercation with Far Eastern University's Red Cervantes last Sunday.

The Falcons, who improved to 2-6, also halted an eight-game losing streak against the Archers dating back to 2004.

The scores:

First Game

ADAMSON (87)— Celiz 19, Baylon 12, Conuche 5, Alvarez 8, Gamos 6, Marquez 4, Lozada 5, Galvante 2, Villanueva 7, Mallillin 2, Tiongson 8, Blackwell

LA SALLE (61)— Hingpit 9, Dario 8, Ramirez 7, Idd 2, Ilustre 7, Alfaro 5, Cu 4, Wendt 5, Harris 3, Mendoza 2, Mingua 2, Arellano 1, Villanueva 5, Fruelacruz 2, Sagalongos

Quarters: 23-14, 35-32, 48-43, 61-55

Second Game

UE (82)— Abdulwahab III, Sotto 12, Suyat 11, Salenga 5, Aquino 2, Rodriguez 3, Ramos 3, Manuel 3, Sandoval 3, Austria 2, Siobel, Dela 8

AU (75)— Lee 20, Fuentes III, Jones 10, Aruguena 9, Ayuda 6, Rosas 5, Rosas 2, Santillo 2, Sandejong 5, Ayuda 2, Villanueva 5, Acuna 2

Quarters: 15-21, 35-31, 58-41, 82-75

UE's Paul Lee passes all-out defensive pressure from Ateneo's Ryan Buenafe.

Malaysia Mega Sale Carnival 1 July - 31 August 2009

RP 5 faces uphill climb vs Jordan

Guiao prays for a miracle today

JAMES TODAY
7 p.m.—Jordan vs Philippines
9 p.m.—Qatar vs Iran
1 a.m.—Chinese Taipei vs China
9 a.m.—Kuwait vs Lebanon

By Mycaa S. Castillo

TAIPEIN, CHINA—NIMC GUIAO doesn't give serious false hopes. He even admits that right now, he's praying for a miracle.

"We're ready to push this as far as we can," Guiao said on the eve of his Powerade-Philippine Sinoboxers quarterfinal clash with old nemesis Jordan in the Fiba Asia qualifying tournament for next year's World Championship in Istanbul, Turkey.

"But we're going to need a miracle to pull it off."

Even Philippines fans hoped that to do favorite China would not play it passive against the Jordanians Wednesday night, shot a loss by the Chinese would put them into a Taipei quarterfinal match with the Filipinos.

But after seeing Jordan's true potential in pushing the Chinese to the limit, it seemed clear the Philippines were left with only two choices...the team that beat it silly in the Asian Cup or the squad that is already dead.

Gameplan is 2 p.m. in the Taoyuan Gym followed by the rest of the quarterfinal schedule.

Defending champion Iran takes the floor against Qatar at 4 p.m. before China tangles with the Taiwanese at 7 and Chinese Taipei at 9.

"It's going to be a good game," said Jordan's guard, the naturalized Stephen Wright, during a throne meeting with Filipino sportswriters at a downtown grocery store. "The (21-point) William Jones (Cup winner) was scoring."

A 90-58 victory by Jordan over Venezuela 48 in the non-guests of the Asean Cup in Taipei last month gloved the Filipinos widely.

But Wright acknowledged that game was not a gauge of RP's strength.

"The Philippines has improved a lot since that time as we all saw from with their games being injured and ready," the 6-foot-7 guard added. "It's going to be a real real throw."

Guiao believes that swapping Wright would do half of the job for his arms

PEREZ, take at an awarded the Philip- player his 24 points in a recent eliminations round game to the 2007 Tokushima Olympic qualifiers. In the top scorer in the 18-nations field with just a shade over 20 points a game. Against China, he was still good for 20 points in an 82-69 loss.

Winning against Jordan would put the Philippines into a Final Four pairing with Iran, which is expected to handle Qatar easily.

Cabo Garuvand and Jared Dillinger will take turns trying to put the stuff on Wright, who has a solid back-up corps in a slew of big guns led by 6-foot-7 Jaad Abbas, a smooth operator who is scoring more than 15 points a contest.

"We will try to stop him, or defend him with single coverage," Guiao said.

Guiao also needs to get his outside guns to target the whole season. James Yap will also experience some right defense like Willie Miller with both wearing his feets beyond three-point range lately.

JORDAN'S Kalvaro Wright, Major problem for Powerade-Pilipinas.

Illam batters stay alive in World Series

By Cedrill P. Tajon

INTERNATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE ADOPTION of Manila batgirl into the win column of the 2009 Series League Pool Ia ries Wednesday with a 4-3 tipping of US Iran's Hartwoman, New York at the Elders Field in Bonaca, Delaware.

The Illam batters, the champions of the Asia-Pacific region, scored all clark runs in the fifth inning as they bounced back from a 0-2 deficit to LIL Louisiana last Calhoun, Louisiana, last Sunday.

Ospeba Bartolo hit a single to score Jill Tenalio after Isabel Garnie had scampered home following a wild pitch by Victoria Adams. Bartolo also rendered home on a wild pitch just like the next batter, Mady Ocuillez, who earlier reached first on error.

Illam, sustained by two-time Baseball Philippines champion coach Randy Bino, plays host to Duero Ilian Negros Thursday.

Meanwhile, Ilaid Davidson closed out its campaign with back-to-back victories to finish with a 2-1 record.

All deserving bets will go, says Peping

By Jose Navarro

COJUANGCO

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee, with the help of sponsors, will send all deserving athletes to the Southeast Asian Games in Laos this December.

"So long as they deserve to be in the delegation, we will include them and find sponsors to shoulder their participation," said POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. yesterday.

The Philippine Sports Commission has a budget of only P30 million for the country's SEAG participations and POC chair Peping Angping said only the gold medalists of the last SEAG and silver medalists with strong winning potentials will be financed along with a few more.

"Whether the PSC likes it or not, we will send athletes whom we feel are deserving to compete," said Cojuangco, emphasizing that the POC has the sole authority to select the athletes for the games.

The POC has asked the 20 participating NSAs to the SEAG to submit a list of athletes they have in three categories: sure gold winners, potential medalists and promising athletes for exposure.

Included in the sure-gold roster are the 12 gold medalists in the 2007 edition. Also to be considered are the 15 silver and 93 bronze medalists and contenders of the training pool.

Tiger starts chase of US PGA crown

TIGER Woods teees up for the 91st PGA Championship at the Hazeltine National Golf Club. AFP

HAZELTINE...FOUR TIME PGA champ Tiger Woods will command the spotlight when he tees off in Thursday's opening round of the US PGA Championship in pursuit of his 15th major victory and first this year.

The American world number one, comfortably the best player of his generation, has not triumphed in a grand slam event since his remarkable play-off win at the 2008 US Open.

He was then sidelined for eight months while recovering from reconstructive knee surgery before returning to the PGA Tour in late February.

Although Woods defines his career by the number of majors he accumulates in his trophy cabinet, he is pursued to relax his goal for this year because of the circumstances surrounding his left knee.

"I don't think any of us would have thought I could have won this many events this year," said Woods, who has finished five PGA Tour titles this season, including two in the last two weeks.

Fellow American Stewart Cink, who won his first major title at last month's British Open, echoed the thoughts of many when assessing Woods' prospects at Hazeltine National golf club.

Good chance

"If on he's got a pretty good chance, probably better than anybody else in the field," said Cink, a six-time champion on the PGA Tour.

Hazeltine last staged the PGA Championship in 2002 when American Rich Beem held off a charging Woods by one shot to win his only major title.

The par-72 course has since been stretched to 7,674 yards, making it the longest layout to stage a major event.

Defending champion Padraig Harrington, who dazzled with Woods for two weeks's US Open playoff loss, remains formidable before slipping back into a fix for second, expects a tough but straightforward challenge this week.

American world number two Phil Mickelson, the 2005 winner at Hazeltine, agreed.

Of all the majors on course times, the PGA stands out. The longest field and this week's edition has attracted 96 of the world's top 100 players. Often, though, it has been the most likely major to throw up a surprise winner.

The championship now seen its second consecutive years by rebranded Americans Boone and Shaun Micheel, underlining that any player is capable of victory this game is no young.

Whoever ends up lifting the prized Wanamaker Trophy on Sunday will have coped best with one of golf's toughest challenges. Reuters

Mayor Tinga Cup national boxing opens

THE MAYOR FREDDIE TINGA CUP National Invitational Amateur Boxing Championships start today at 2 p.m. at the Don Ambrosio Gym of the Cantada Sports Center in Bagumbayan, Tagaytay City.

Presented by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and organized by the Jun Cantada Sports in coordination with the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, the three-day event has drawn the best and promising boxers all over the country. Admission is free.

Expected to grace the event are Mayor Tinga, Vice Mayor George Ellan and City Administrator Wilfredo Villar.

Expected to bring will be provided by sponsorships from the saddles of Silangan City of sportsman Tony Aldupan, Misamar Director of Mindo Gamers, Sagbilaran City of Mayor Jun Paul Sala, North Cotabato of Hon. Don Manny Piñol and Ilagan.

All participants, trainers and officials are billeted in the first class lodging facilities of the sports resort and are being attended to by the organizing Cantada Sports.

For the boxing rings, gloves and head gears will be used exclusively during the championships. To be disputed are the bouts in the 48kg, 51kg, 54kg, 57kg and 64 kg.

STANDINGS	W	L
1. Schneider	8	1
San Beda	7	1
Jose Rizal	7	1
Letran	6	2
Arellano U	4	4
St. Benilde	4	4
Perpetual	3	5
CSJL	1	7
Mapua	1	7
JRU	1	8

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Colleges Gym, Davao City)
10 a.m.—Arellano vs Mapua (Jrs.)
11:30 a.m.—San Sebastian vs Letran (Jrs.)
2 p.m.—Arellano vs Mapua (Sen.)
4 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Letran (Sen.)

Stags eye sweep vs Knights

By Cedrik F. Tupas

SAN SEBASTIAN GUNS FOR A SWEEP OF the first round when it tackles Letran today in the 85th NCAA basketball tournament at the FEGU Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Stags go into the 4 p.m. game riding high on an eight-game winning streak that spans championship champion San Beda and pre-tournament pick Jose Rizal U.

But drinks in the San Sebastian corner were enjoyed by the Mapua Cardinals, who pushed the Stags all the way before yielding, 74-77, Monday.

San Sebastian coach Ato Agustin hopes the home cooks to the Stags' game will be tuned up in time for their showdown with the Knights, who are stumbled at a "dangerous zone."

"We'll be in trouble if we play the way we did against Mapua," said Agustin, whose team has matched the winning streak posted last year by the SSC squad of former coach Jerry Codiñera in the eliminations.

Clashing in the first game at 2 p.m. are rebuilding Arellano U and struggling Mapua.

The Chiefs overwhelmed the hapless Intramurals Jose Ibarra, 96-77, Wednesday and a win today, coupled with a Letran loss to San Sebastian, will give the Chiefs a share of fourth with the Knights at the end of the first round.

The Cardinals have yet to find their groove under rookie coach Chito Victolero, losing seven of their first eight games.

1. Schneider	8	1
San Beda	7	1
Jose Rizal	7	1
Letran	6	2
Arellano U	4	4
St. Benilde	4	4
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Lyceum-Subic Bay repulses New Era

By Marc Anthony Reyes

VETERAN SHOOTING GUARD Jessie James Collado fired 16 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter as Lyceum of Subic Bay downed New Era, 78-75, yesterday in the four-team games of the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities at the EBP Gym.

The Sharks improved their card to 8-2 and joined the top eight battle in the second round, which will still be a single-round robin, to determine the Final Four.

LSB is at fourth place and will take on No. 5 team ICC at the start of the second round on Aug. 17.

The Hunters bowed out of contention with a 5-7 slate, but will still play the remaining four-round games against Jose Rizal U (JRU) tomorrow.

The 6-foot-4 Collado tallied 16 points and got much needed boost from 3-for-11 off guard Mike Labrador who turned in 14 markers.

Gregor Jessie San Sebastian Cardo will take on Our Lady of Fatima University in the second round, while No. 2 Jesus University of Manila will square off with Centro Escolar which ended top Tola loured on the quotient system. No. 3 Intramurals will battle AMA which headed teh by victor of higher quotient, while LSB will lock horns with ISS.

Box scores:

LSB 78—Collado 16, Labador 14, Bayle 8, Blaro 8, Nabua 7, Padilla 6, Velasco 5, Lore 4, Ding 4, Espanol 3, Ignacio 2, Ilon 2, Leda 0.

NEU 75—Lopez 11, Garcia 17, Sarmiento 13, Javier 10, Rosco 9, Villareal 5, Stella 8, Tangan 1, Dumpit 0.

Quarters: 20-21, 38-38, 59-62, 78-75

Dagupan, Roxas hold marathon elims Sunday

HAZE start of last year's Mile Marathon Race City leg drew over 5,000 runners. The same field is expected to be back in Sunday's run.

IT'S THE TURN OF DAGUPAN AND ROXAS to host the 33rd National Mile Marathon elimination on Sunday as the eight-month, three-island elimination races near the homestretch.

Dagupan, known for its Bonuan longan, attracted 4,000 runners while Roxas, known as the "Seafood Capital of the Philippines" lured 3,000 participants.

The races will be flagged off simultaneously at 5:30 a.m. by officials of the two cities assisted by organizers of the country's longest running footrace headed by Mike Sparta Events chief Ito Ong and National Mile Marathon organizer Rudy Biscocho.

Competitors in the main course 21K will try to meet the qualifying time of 1:15:00 for men and 1:33:00 for women to qualify for the national finals.

Three other races—3K, 5K and 10K—complete the four-age divisions in the footrace being held in an partnership with the Department of Tourism and Baywalk Park Hotel Manila.

Provincial qualifiers will converge in Manila for the finals slated on Dec. 13, with the men and women champions each getting P75,000 and an organ glass trophy.

Eduardo Buenaventura and Marcelita Manlapaz were the national elites last year.

Eighteen races—four for have been completed with eight more slated.

Of the completed races, the Sanning-ing (Olaside) held July 19 and last Sunday's Tagbilaran elimination did not produce qualifiers in both divisions.

The remaining races are slated in Legaspi and Iloilo (Aug. 23), Naga and Bacolod (Aug. 30), and San Pablo and Dumaguete (Sept. 6).

Manila will square off with Centro Escolar which ended top Tola loured on the quotient system. No. 3 Intramurals will battle AMA which headed teh by victor of higher quotient, while LSB will lock horns with ISS.

Box scores:

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Who will make the UAAP Final Four?

ONE GAME AT A TIME

See SAPPENFIELD

THE "FINAL FOUR" FORMAT UTILized by the UAAP (and subsequently by the NCAA) is arguable one of the best basketball tournament formats around.

With only fourteen games for each squad and only two quick "postseason" phases, each game is a season defining encounter.

The format sprung out of a need for a championship round that increases fan and sponsor interest. The top two teams of the elimination round gain a twice to best advantage over the third and fourth placed squads. Therefore, you plays number four and number two plays number three. Winners move on to play to the best of three finals. Quarterfinals and knockout games help break position ties. The format demands excellence while at the same time giving less-peaking teams a decent chance to "make it to the hoop's spot."

FEU's Mark Molina and 'Fy' analyst Randy Santillan reminded me that the format was initialized in 1994 after the 14-game sweep and automatic title of UST the previous year. In 2007, UE swept the elimination rounds and advanced to the finals but lost to La Salle in two games in the championship.

So who will make this years Final four?

Defending champion Ateneo and host FEU seem to have the inside track on the first two slots. Who finishes One is could be finalized on the day they face each other same or earlier. La Salle, UST, UE and the sport as how other plays. It's the third and fourth spots that are interesting and should be a three-cornered fight among La Salle, UE and UST.

Rookie-laden La Salle proved to all and months it is a legitimate contender despite the preseason departures they may have said otherwise. Their four-game win streak and near triumph against Ateneo have made the analysts review their notes. Even Pumaren's eyesores anchored on a full-court press and lightning-quick smarts on the basket has new young legs rushing to run and bunker. This may not have the same size as Ateneo and FEU but they make up for it with speed and aggressiveness.

UE and UST are aching for consistency and filming guns in the crucial games ahead. There's no question about the talent and the Tigers have a good mix of young and veteran blood. It's now a matter of getting the proper focus against Ateneo and FEU's key players who have been playing together for at least three years now. It seems a chance is battle for the top two spots and the twice to best advantage. UE and UST saved no doubt the Blue Eagles, the Samaniego and the Green Archers.

Three teams at the tail end of the standings—Adamson, ST and UP—now need upset wins as huge as UP's first round triumph against Ateneo to get a glimmer of a chance to contend for the fourth spot. The tough matchup to at least get to Season is never extra less even that may be hard to achieve given the dogfights now being waged by the frontrunners.

Expect fireworks in the second round that is already underway. The Final Four format is ideal for the college game where passions run high and where even the neutrals are cheering.

SPORTSWATCH

Southwoods reigns at home

MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF EXPECTS AT HOME and rewarded his first victory in the premier circuit of the Ashmark Golf Association of the Philippines (AGAP) circuit over at Carmelray Import Class B at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite recently.

The hosts drew 69 points from Rachel Alcorso under the Modified Stableford system while Claire Chan forced in 50 points and Ellie Ch Ellen and Cleo Garcia chipped in 21 points apiece as Southwoods posted a 160 to post a five-point victory over Carlobang.

Marie Laurel and Rondaura Silao fired 39 points each while Teresa Campos and Lina de Guzman made 37 and 36 points, respectively, for Carlobang's 151 point aggregate.

Pucay 3 behind with 68

MANILA THAILAND—ARNOLD PUCAY BIRDIED HIS last four holes and shot a 3-under par 68 just three strokes behind leader Lee Byung-ki of Korea at the start of the Queen's Cup Thursday Manila Cooperator and Antonio Lascuna matched par 71 at the Sandiboat Samui Country Club. Antonio Dalmatin carded a 72 while Jay Bayron and Antonio Monasterio had 74s. Jonas Sun Wave

Jong, Kings Scoop guests

COACH JONG BOHOL AND HIS KAPAMPANGAN Kings lineup, including promising point guard Joseph and officials of the national swimming, diving and water polo teams will be the guests in today's Scoop Sa Kamayan weekly session at the Kamayan Restaurant Pedro Hizon starting at 11 a.m.

Pasay: 'Cito and Preco' today

MORE THAN 600 MOTORISTS ARE EXPECTED in Pasay City Eastern's "Cito and Preco 3-cock derby" starting at 6 p.m. today.

Named after late Pasay City Cito Manansala of Pasay and derby enthusiast Preco Reyes of Lagoa, derby hosts Jaimee a tough field of 65 participants.

Guaranteed prize is P150,000 or more.

Meanwhile, the "11th Big Eastern-stag derby" comes next at PSE on Aug. 21 with Patrick Antonio and Rio dela Pena as hosts.

For details, call (632) 842-2463, (632) 740-4000 (Jaime Gerald).

SJC 'Fastest Win' event Aug. 16

ALTHOUGH THAN 1,500 ENTRIES EXPECTED for the "2010 Kalaki Win Sim-sack Stakes" at San Juan Coliseum 8:00 AM at 7 a.m. on Sunday.

Guaranteed prize is P200,000, with a trophy divided among the winners. Entry fee is PT,200.

The 10th fastest win champion gets P35,000 while the last finisher gets P1,000 and gifts (10,000).

Meanwhile, the elimination match of the "3M Rambolan-7" stag derby" holds off on Monday, also at SJC.

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DID YOU KNOW

DURING his first visit to the Philippines in February 1981, Pope John Paul II beatified Filipino martyr Lorenzo Ruiz and his martyr companions at Rizal Park, the first beatification ceremony held outside the Vatican.
CyRIL JOSAFAT, Inquirer Research

SHALANI SOLEDAD NOW GETS A LOT MORE ATTENTION, BUT NOT DUE TO POLITICS

'Noynoy' GF thrust into limelight anew

SHALANI Soledad: Very low-profile and very simple. Dondi Tapia/INQ

By Recently T. Mahinidad

SHE STIRRED UP A LOT OF INTEREST IN Valenzuela City when she garnered the biggest number of votes when she ran for councilor in the city's second district in 2007. This time, however, Shalani Soledad is getting a lot more attention, not due to politics but because of her personal life.

Soledad, 26, is being linked romantically to Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, the only son of the late President Corazon "Cory" C. Aquino and brother Sen. Benigno "Bikoy" Aquino Jr.

In an interview the other day, Noynoy talked to Senate reporters for the first time about his girlfriend. Although he confirmed that she was a councilor in Valenzuela City he did not identify her.

Although friends said the two have been together for almost a year, the couple have managed to keep their relationship a secret from the public.

In fact, some employees at the Valenzuela City Hall said they have yet to see the two attend any of the social events being hosted by the city government.

They added that they only learned about the matter being a couple when Soledad appeared on the television show "Deal or No Deal" in February to lend support to Noynoy who was a contestant.

Another giveaway was when the one-term councilor organized a Mass for the recovery of Noynoy's mother, Cory at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in the city last month.

The incumbent supported an interview with Soledad but she begged off.

"She is really very low-profile and very simple," said Marilibet Mesina, the city public information chief.

A check of the Valenzuela City government's website showed that before running for councilor, Soledad worked at the Senate as an executive staffer of Sen. Herdilo Lacson, a cousin of Cayetanonoy, but also worked for the provincial government.

Right now, Soledad chairs two committees—appropriations and ways and means—two very technical committees that deal with the city's finances.

"She deals with budget allocations and she also looks for resources for that budget," Councilor Alvin Feliciano said.

'Beauty and brains'

Another colleague described her in a nutshell as someone with "beauty and brains."

Valenzuela Vice Mayor Eric Martinez said that Soledad was a soft-spoken person who always got the job done.

Martinez said Soledad are both members of the administration party Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

Martinez said he has seen the couple on only two occasions. One was at the wedding of Valenzuela Councilor Rosalie Jacobas, where Noynoy was part of the wedding entourage.

The other was during the graduation ceremony at St. Catherine School in Valenzuela City where the senator was the guest speaker.

Talks were rife in Valenzuela that Soledad was being groomed to run for Congress next year.

Noynoy, however, earlier said that he was not aware of her plans to run for a congressional seat, adding that the last time they talked about politics, Soledad said she wanted to run for reelection.

2 cops allegedly involved in car theft ring arrested

By Allison W. Lopez

TWO POLICEMEN ALLEGEDLY involved in a car theft syndicate were subdued by the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) with three others in subsequent operations in Taguig City.

Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales, head of the NCRPO, said SPO2 Alfonso Narvas, 49, of the Manila Police District, and PO2 Rolando Mapagsin, 26, of the Caloocan City police, were arrested with motorcycle technician Miguel Fontanilla in a hit-and-run operation past midnight Wednesday.

Rosales said six motorcycles, four of which did not have plate numbers, were recovered from the suspects.

A week earlier, the Regional Traffic Enforcement and Anti-Carnapping Unit (RTEU-Ancar) caught suspects Prosecutor Aurelio and Richard Decano of Quezon City at Mindoro Market in Fort Bonifacio.

The police seized from them a Mitsubishi Delica (DAC-249), Hyundai Starex (CJB-478), Ford Lynx (BAL-214), Honda Civic (DCB-988), Mitsubishi Adventure (DBS-473), Nissan Urvan (DBB-816) and a Mitsubishi L-300 FB van (DB-9042).

Rosales said administrative cases have been filed against the erring police officers for their immediate dismissal from service.

"The involvement of the police suspects will not be tolerated. They will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law to warn others and to uphold the integrity of the police service," Rosales said.

The arrests, he added, were part of their continuing crackdown on car theft syndicates which were tracked with help from the Land Transportation Office.

Charges of violation of RA 6539 (Anti-Carnapping Law) and PD 1612 (Anti-Fencing Law) were filed against the suspects.

BEFORE AND AFTER
A total of 221 squatter families who used to live in the shanties along Esteros de Paco and at the back of Jesus Lobban Elementary School in Paco, Manila (top photo), have been relocated to Bagong Silang in Caloocan through the efforts of the Kapit Bisig para sa Ilog Pasig (KBPP). The KBPP worked with the National Housing Authority, the City of Manila's Department of Public Services and Urban Settlements Office, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Gawad Kalinga, Habitat, and barangay officials in the area to achieve this milestone. (Stephen Dio Hercilla)

2 men held for holdup, guard slay

TWO MEN WHO ALLEGEDLY killed a security guard after robbing two youths in Las Piñas City early yesterday morning were arrested by the police.

Suspects Ryan Salandot and Ryan Rocas of Talon 2 were nabbed after a shootout with policemen on Alabang-Zapote Road, said Chief Insp. Prudencio Borja of the Las Piñas investigation division.

The two reportedly shot dead security guard Cristito Magallano, 36, who was manning the Oxford Biscuits shop at Pulang Lupa 1, around 3 a.m.

Borja said the men first robbed Leonardo Reyes, 17, of his cell phone but his companion, Michael Saranda, 20, scampered, causing the suspects to chase him.

While they were running after Saranda, the suspects apparently cheered upon the guard and pointed him down before he could meddle.

The robbers fled, unheard a couple and after corresponding policemen but they eventually surrendered.

Reyes and Saranda positively identified the suspects, who possessed .38 caliber and 9 mm firearms.

Allison W. Lopez

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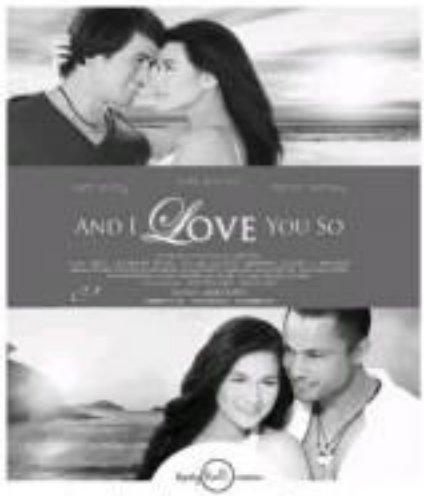

CALL CENTER AGENTS' SLAY

Probers to file murder raps vs former soldier

By Jeannette I. Andrade

HOMICIDE INVESTIGATORS will file double murder charges before the Manila Prosecutor's Office against a security guard and former soldier who shot dead two call center agents on Aug. 8.

Chief Insp. Erwin Margarejo, Manila Police District homicide section chief, said that aside from filing charges against Noel Sabalza, 33, they were also considering filing administrative charges against two policemen implicated in the deaths of Ma. Gerald Pangandoy, 24, and Analyn Enriquez, 22.

Margarejo added that the police were still looking for Sabalza who went into hiding right after he killed the couple in their house on Dubai Street, Magallanes, Sta. Mesa, Manila.

The police said that Pangandoy was the former live-in partner of Sabalza' sister Sabalza, who continued to stay in the house after the couple broke up, apparently resented Pangandoy's bringing home another woman.

In his report, Margarejo said two policemen – PO2 Rolando Serrano who is assigned at Camp Crame and SPO2 Julius Uriel Flores of the Muntinlupa City police – were linked to the deaths after they were found to have had drinks with Sabalza before he went home and killed the victims.

He added that a witness said the assailant managed to hit Enriquez, belonged to Serrano.

However, this was denied by Serrano while Flores claimed that he did not know what happened because he fell asleep due to drunkenness.

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METROBRIEFS

Concelebrated Mass set for Paco parish 400th anniversary

ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS S. Pabillo, D.D., auxiliary bishop of Manila, will officiate at the concelebrated Mass marking the 400th anniversary of the San Fernando de Dilao Parish of Paco and the feast of its patron, Our Lord of the Holy Sepulchre, on Aug. 23. Concelebrants are parish priest Msgr. Dominga A. Cortes Jr., Fr. Wilfredo C. Salvera, Fr. Orlino R. Alcantara, Fr. Manuel Dasmo Arceo and Fr. Lutie Mountgal. The Mass will be said at the parish church on Pio Del Pilar at 7 a.m. In preparation for the fiesta, novena Masses will be said from Aug. 14 to 22 at 6:30 p.m. For last parish priests led by Bishop Teodoro C. Bacani Jr., D.D. are among the celebrants of the nine-day Mas. The others are Fr. Diosdado V. Gagabaten, Fr. Romulo E. Tuanes, Fr. Roderick L. Castro, Fr. Ronald M. Macato, Fr. Benito Tuason and Monsignor Gerardo B. Santos. The Dominicans (Confraternity of the Holy Sepulchre) in the host organization coordinating the activities of the parish council headed by Aida K. Villanueva and various fiesta committees. Overall chair is Solano "Bong" Salcedo.

'Stop, Look and Love' at SM

ALL YOUNG students will have the chance to "fall in love" with the works of Filipinoinventors now ongoing at the Old MegaMall Atrium Activity Center Building A. Its display are very innovative, cutting edge inventions—coming from the creative and talented minds of Filipinos. Some of these products here actually won international awards and have also been accepted by the Department of Science and Technology and other local agencies. They range from physical wellness products to environment friendly devices and innovative equipment/gadgets for home, industry or community. A robotics demonstration will also be made by students from the Grupo Christian High School, the team that took the main prize in the 2008 World Robotics Competition Olympiad in Kitakyushu, Japan. The students are Ed Rich Chua, Dominique Hannah Ely and Joseph Ong, who assisted by their mentors/coaches Noreen Ong Po and Ms Melanie Ecoe. Students will find this robotics demonstration very interesting as this is the new highway for technology and everyone can excel in this field. The event is supported by the SEPS-DOST and the Science Education Institute. The event will be held up to Aug. 16.

National conference on language set Aug. 17-18

THE KOMISYON sa Wikang Filipino (Commission on the Filipino Language) under the Office of the President in cooperation with the Office of Sen. Edgardo Angara and the National Commission for Culture of the Arts will hold a Pambansang Kumperensiya sa Wika (National Conference on Language) from Aug. 17 to 18 at the Aurora State College of Technology in Baler, Aurora. "Wikang Filipino: Mula Baler hanggang buong Pilipinas" (Filipino Language: From Baler Nationwide) is a two-day seminar led Dr. Eusebio Angara and Panganiban ng Sentro sa Wikang Filipino director Lolita dela Cruz, to be participated in by Pangasiwaang Sentro sa Wikang Filipino directors, coordinators and researchers; civil organizations and the Department of Education from Regions III and IV.

Estavillo: 54

CLARO ESTAVILLO JR., died on Aug. 12 at the age of 54. His body lies in state at the Dos Reyes Chapel, Makati City. Interment will be on Sunday, 1 p.m., at the Manila South Cemetery.

Woman who conned job applicants held by NBI

By Jeannette I. Andrade

NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) agents announced yesterday the arrest of a suspected illegal recruiter who allegedly conned several people of P15,000 in cash for supposed jobs in New Zealand.

The agents identified the suspect as Ma. Dalcore Racelis Records, who also goes by the aliases "Maibil Ledrew Perez" and "Lorena Ledrew," 43, and has addresses in Lucban, Quezon, and Albuera, Bicol.

Records was arrested Thursday last week in an entrapment operation at a mall in Manila.

NBI-CIO head agent Rogner Pereza said that the arrest stemmed from the complaints of Emeliso Grullo and five other persons, all of Ibdl, Laguna, who claimed they were recruited by Records last May by employment as a woman firm in New Zealand.

Grullo said they paid Records Rs 19,700 each for processing and miscellaneous fees and waited for the recruiter to make good on her promise of giving them overseas employment.

On Aug. 6, Records called up one of the complainants asking for other possible applicants. But when she was asked about the status of the current applications, Records informed the applicant that she would need an additional P1,800 to expedite the processing of the visa.

Grullo and the other complainants decided to file a complaint with the NBI which set up an entrapment operation.

Pereza said a check with the Philippine Overseas and Employment Administration also revealed that Records is not licensed to recruit workers for overseas jobs.

Records is now held at the NBI jail and has been charged with large scale estafa and illegal recruitment.

UP sues herbal drink manufacturer

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE Philippines has sued the manufacturer of a herbal drink being touted as an allegedly cancer cure for using the university's name, seal, logo, including the Oblation, to promote the product.

In a sworn affidavit submitted on Wednesday by Edward Dumaa, head of the UP Technology Licensing Office, the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 90 was asked to order Antonio Agustin, producer of Boston-C to pay the university P1 million in damages and to stop using its name, seal and product.

Dumaa said that in "The Boston Bulletin," a promotional material distributed by Agustin, the UP seal and the logo of the UP Institute of Biology was displayed along with the Oblation's an article with the heading, "UP lab tests show that Boston Chilli causes cells to die."

"This is the first time an unlicensed property case was filed by UP against someone," UP lawyer Philip Sanvil told the Inquirer at the Quezon City of Hall of Justice.

Dumaa further said that "due to these promotional materials, the UP Institute of Biology had been getting calls regarding the claims as to the efficacy of Boston-C."

"In making such misrepresentations, Boston-C is using UP's name in distorting the truth, likewise misrepresenting UP with the numerous queries as to the authenticity and properties of the drink. Worse, it puts the reputation and goodwill of UP at untold risk," he added.

Dumaa admitted that the defendant submitted his product to the UP Institute of Biology for testing but stressed that the university never granted Boston-C a seal of endorsement.

"The ad fails to mention that succeeding tests showed that the same product had lost its efficacy, or as the very least, that the test conducted on the product produced varied results depending on the batch that was presented for testing," he said.

Agustin, meanwhile, told the Inquirer that he was willing to settle amicably with UP.

BLOCKED ACCESS
An aerial shot of the century landfill in Rodriguez town in Rizal purportedly shows the extent of damage to the site. The local government has imposed tighter security in the site and blocked access to it which environmental groups claim are measures intended to hide from the media the repair job being done by the contractors.

Court junks motion of Ateneo student's kin vs woman driver

By Julie M. Aurelio

A JUDGE HAS DENIED THE motion filed by the family of 20-year-old Juliana Carla Miguel "Nenit" Alcantara, an Ateneo Grade School student, for the conduct of a preliminary investigation into the charges they filed against the woman who struck him with her van, leading to his death.

In a 14-page resolution, Judge Angelene Mary Sale of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 106 noted that the motion was filed by the family's lawyers a month after they charged Ms. Teresa Torres in court—more beyond the five-day period allotted for the filing of such a petition.

"The court further notes that the motion for preliminary investigation was made by the complainants, not the accused. The right to request for a preliminary investigation belongs to the accused," the said in her resolution dated June 15.

The family of Alcantara, who was killed in February after his Teresa Torres struck him with her van at the school parking lot, earlier asked the court to order a preliminary investigation for the purpose of upgrading the charges against Torres from homicide to murder.

Torres, who is out on bail, faces charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide, physical injuries and serious physical injuries.

Consolidated case

The court, meanwhile, ordered the solicitor prosecutors office to file an amended information against Torres in which the three cases against her would be consolidated into one complex crime.

The ruling in effect dismissed the motion filed by Torres' lawyers asking the court to dismiss the cases against her.

Torres was set to be arraigned yesterday morning but this was postponed by the court pending the resolution of a motion for reconsideration filed by the 41-year-old.

The court reset Torres' arraignment to Sept. 17.

Sought for comment, Jose Alcantara, Amid's father, said he wanted to see justice served not for his son's death although he understood that there were legal issues that needed to be ironed out first.

DND barred from rebidding ammo deal

By Julie M. Aurelio

A QUEZON CITY COURT HAS directed the Department of National Defense (DND) not to rebid a contract for the purchase of 40mm, 60mm and 81 mm ammunition after the DND earlier declared a failure of bidding.

In a six-page order, Judge Marie Christine Jacob of Regional Trial Court Branch 100 said the petitioner, Eldo Security Consulting and Trade Ltd., is entitled to preliminary injunction.

Respondents in the case were Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, Undersecretary Antonio Rommel S and the DND bids and awards committee.

Eldo, an Israel-based firm, was declared by the DND early this year as the "lowest calculated and responsive bidder" in a competitive bidding conducted by the DND-BAC.

The winning bidder sought the court's intervention after Teodoro, on Rommel's recommendation, declared a failure of bidding and scrapped the BAC recommendation to give the contract to the firm.

Jacob said Eldo, as the winning bidder declared by respondent DND-BAC, has acquired the right to be issued a notice of award by the DND (Teodoro).

The project involves P99,321,800 for 27% 12.6 pieces of 40mm, 60mm and 81 ammunition.

Cops eye closure of Cubao cinema

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A SUNDOWN MOVIE house in Cubao, Quezon City, is allegedly being used as a "front for prostitution" and should be closed, a police official said.

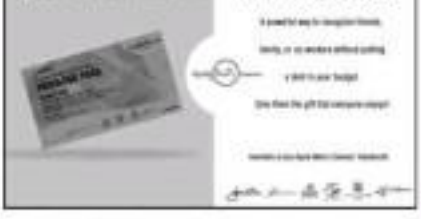
Supt. Nestor Abalos, Quezon City Police District Intelligence Division head, said he would recommend the cancellation of the theater's license to operate.

The theater is located at the corner of Aurora Boulevard and Stanford Street.

"We'll recommend the closure to the local government as it has been a haven of prostitution for years and its management is not doing anything about it," Abalos said.

Abalos said their recommendation stemmed from complaints from owners of shops in the area and text messages complaining about occurrences of prostitution inside the theater.

He added: "We have called the attention of the management which claimed they have no control of what is happening inside the establishment."



HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION
Office of the President

NOTICE OF SALE

The Home Guaranty Corporation is offering for sale through public bidding the following properties located at Regus Great Vida Subdivision in Batasang, Baguio City:

	PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	LOT AREA (SQ.M.)	MINIMUM BID PRICE (SRP)
	Phase I			
1	House & Lot Unit 1B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
2	House & Lot Unit 2B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
3	House & Lot Unit 3B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
4	House & Lot Unit 4B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
5	House & Lot Unit 5B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
6	House & Lot Unit 6B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
7	House & Lot Unit 7B	Loft	117	1,144,000.00
8	House & Lot Unit 8B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
9	House & Lot Unit 9B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
10	House & Lot Unit 10B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
11	House & Lot Unit 11B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
12	House & Lot Unit 12B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
13	House & Lot Unit 13B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
14	House & Lot Unit 14B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
15	House & Lot Unit 15B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
16	House & Lot Unit 16B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
17	House & Lot Unit 17B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
	Phase II			
18	House & Lot Unit 1A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
19	House & Lot Unit 2A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
20	House & Lot Unit 3A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
21	House & Lot Unit 4A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
22	House & Lot Unit 5A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
23	House & Lot Unit 6A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
24	House & Lot Unit 7A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
25	House & Lot Unit 8A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
26	House & Lot Unit 9A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
27	House & Lot Unit 10A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
28	House & Lot Unit 11A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
29	House & Lot Unit 12A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
30	House & Lot Unit 13A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
31	House & Lot Unit 14A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
32	House & Lot Unit 15A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
33	House & Lot Unit 16A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
34	House & Lot Unit 17A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
35	House & Lot Unit 1B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
36	House & Lot Unit 2B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
37	House & Lot Unit 3B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
38	House & Lot Unit 4B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
39	House & Lot Unit 5B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
40	House & Lot Unit 6B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
41	House & Lot Unit 7B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
42	House & Lot Unit 8B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
43	House & Lot Unit 9B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
44	House & Lot Unit 10B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
45	House & Lot Unit 11B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
46	House & Lot Unit 12B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
47	House & Lot Unit 13B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
48	House & Lot Unit 14B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
49	House & Lot Unit 15B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
50	House & Lot Unit 16B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
51	House & Lot Unit 17B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
52	House & Lot Unit 1A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
53	House & Lot Unit 2A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
54	House & Lot Unit 3A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
55	House & Lot Unit 4A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
56	House & Lot Unit 5A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
57	House & Lot Unit 6A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
58	House & Lot Unit 7A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
59	House & Lot Unit 8A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
60	House & Lot Unit 9A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
61	House & Lot Unit 10A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
62	House & Lot Unit 11A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
63	House & Lot Unit 12A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
64	House & Lot Unit 13A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
65	House & Lot Unit 14A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
66	House & Lot Unit 15A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
67	House & Lot Unit 16A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
68	House & Lot Unit 17A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
69	House & Lot Unit 1B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
70	House & Lot Unit 2B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
71	House & Lot Unit 3B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
72	House & Lot Unit 4B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
73	House & Lot Unit 5B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
74	House & Lot Unit 6B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
75	House & Lot Unit 7B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
76	House & Lot Unit 8B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
77	House & Lot Unit 9B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
78	House & Lot Unit 10B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
79	House & Lot Unit 11B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
80	House & Lot Unit 12B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
81	House & Lot Unit 13B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
82	House & Lot Unit 14B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
83	House & Lot Unit 15B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
84	House & Lot Unit 16B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
85	House & Lot Unit 17B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
	Phase III			
86	House & Lot Unit 1A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
87	House & Lot Unit 2A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
88	House & Lot Unit 3A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
89	House & Lot Unit 4A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
90	House & Lot Unit 5A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
91	House & Lot Unit 6A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
92	House & Lot Unit 7A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
93	House & Lot Unit 8A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
94	House & Lot Unit 9A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
95	House & Lot Unit 10A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
96	House & Lot Unit 11A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
97	House & Lot Unit 12A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
98	House & Lot Unit 13A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
99	House & Lot Unit 14A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
100	House & Lot Unit 15A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
101	House & Lot Unit 16A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
102	House & Lot Unit 17A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
103	House & Lot Unit 1B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
104	House & Lot Unit 2B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
105	House & Lot Unit 3B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
106	House & Lot Unit 4B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
107	House & Lot Unit 5B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
108	House & Lot Unit 6B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
109	House & Lot Unit 7B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
110	House & Lot Unit 8B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
111	House & Lot Unit 9B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
112	House & Lot Unit 10B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
113	House & Lot Unit 11B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
114	House & Lot Unit 12B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
115	House & Lot Unit 13B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
116	House & Lot Unit 14B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
117	House & Lot Unit 15B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
118	House & Lot Unit 16B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
119	House & Lot Unit 17B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
120	House & Lot Unit 1A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
121	House & Lot Unit 2A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
122	House & Lot Unit 3A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
123	House & Lot Unit 4A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
124	House & Lot Unit 5A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
125	House & Lot Unit 6A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
126	House & Lot Unit 7A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
127	House & Lot Unit 8A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
128	House & Lot Unit 9A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
129	House & Lot Unit 10A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
130	House & Lot Unit 11A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
131	House & Lot Unit 12A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
132	House & Lot Unit 13A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
133	House & Lot Unit 14A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
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135	House & Lot Unit 16A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
136	House & Lot Unit 17A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
137	House & Lot Unit 1B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
138	House & Lot Unit 2B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
139	House & Lot Unit 3B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
140	House & Lot Unit 4B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
141	House & Lot Unit 5B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
142	House & Lot Unit 6B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
143	House & Lot Unit 7B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
144	House & Lot Unit 8B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
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146	House & Lot Unit 10B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
147	House & Lot Unit 11B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
148	House & Lot Unit 12B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
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150	House & Lot Unit 14B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
151	House & Lot Unit 15B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
152	House & Lot Unit 16B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
153	House & Lot Unit 17B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
154	House & Lot Unit 1A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
155	House & Lot Unit 2A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
156	House & Lot Unit 3A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
157	House & Lot Unit 4A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
158	House & Lot Unit 5A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
159	House & Lot Unit 6A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
160	House & Lot Unit 7A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
161	House & Lot Unit 8A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
162	House & Lot Unit 9A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
163	House & Lot Unit 10A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
164	House & Lot Unit 11A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
165	House & Lot Unit 12A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
166	House & Lot Unit 13A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
167	House & Lot Unit 14A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
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169	House & Lot Unit 16A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
170	House & Lot Unit 17A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
171	House & Lot Unit 1B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
172	House & Lot Unit 2B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
173	House & Lot Unit 3B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
174	House & Lot Unit 4B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
175	House & Lot Unit 5B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
176	House & Lot Unit 6B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
177	House & Lot Unit 7B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
178	House & Lot Unit 8B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
179	House & Lot Unit 9B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
180	House & Lot Unit 10B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
181	House & Lot Unit 11B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
182	House & Lot Unit 12B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
183	House & Lot Unit 13B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
184	House & Lot Unit 14B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
185	House & Lot Unit 15B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
186	House & Lot Unit 16B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
187	House & Lot Unit 17B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
	Phase IV			
188	House & Lot Unit 1A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
189	House & Lot Unit 2A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
190	House & Lot Unit 3A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
191	House & Lot Unit 4A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
192	House & Lot Unit 5A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
193	House & Lot Unit 6A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
194	House & Lot Unit 7A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
195	House & Lot Unit 8A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
196	House & Lot Unit 9A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
197	House & Lot Unit 10A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
198	House & Lot Unit 11A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
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203	House & Lot Unit 16A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
204	House & Lot Unit 17A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
205	House & Lot Unit 1B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
206	House & Lot Unit 2B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
207	House & Lot Unit 3B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
208	House & Lot Unit 4B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
209	House & Lot Unit 5B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
210	House & Lot Unit 6B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
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212	House & Lot Unit 8B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
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214	House & Lot Unit 10B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
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218	House & Lot Unit 14B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
219	House & Lot Unit 15B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
220	House & Lot Unit 16B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
221	House & Lot Unit 17B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
222	House & Lot Unit 1A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
223	House & Lot Unit 2A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
224	House & Lot Unit 3A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
225	House & Lot Unit 4A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
226	House & Lot Unit 5A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
227	House & Lot Unit 6A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
228	House & Lot Unit 7A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
229	House & Lot Unit 8A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
230	House & Lot Unit 9A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
231	House & Lot Unit 10A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
232	House & Lot Unit 11A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
233	House & Lot Unit 12A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
234	House & Lot Unit 13A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
235	House & Lot Unit 14A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
236	House & Lot Unit 15A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
237	House & Lot Unit 16A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
238	House & Lot Unit 17A	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
239	House & Lot Unit 1B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
240	House & Lot Unit 2B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
241	House & Lot Unit 3B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
242	House & Lot Unit 4B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
243	House & Lot Unit 5B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
244	House & Lot Unit 6B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
245	House & Lot Unit 7B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
246	House & Lot Unit 8B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
247	House & Lot Unit 9B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
248	House & Lot Unit 10B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
249	House & Lot Unit 11B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
250	House & Lot Unit 12B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
251	House & Lot Unit 13B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
252	House & Lot Unit 14B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
253	House & Lot Unit 15B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
254	House & Lot Unit 16B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00
255	House & Lot Unit 17B	Loft	200	1,144,000.00

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(Sgd.) RAFAEL V. DELOS SANTOS
Vice President
Asset Management & Acquisition Group

DTN: August 5 - 2009

NOT THE EMPEROR'S ARMY?
China's famed ancient terracotta army discovered near the city of Xi'an is usually thought to be guarding the burial site of Qin Shihuang, who presided over the unification of China in 221 BC and declared himself the first emperor. But historian Chen Jingyun told the Global Times on Aug. 12 that he believes the emperor's ancestor Empress Xiaoji, who died 33 years before Qin's birth, was the real mastermind behind the army. AFP

Rights group: Israelis shot dead Gaza civilians waving white flags

JERUSALEM—ISRAELI SOLDIERS unlawfully shot and killed 11 Palestinian civilians, including four children, who were in groups waving white flags during the Gaza war, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Thursday.

"The Israeli military should conduct thorough, credible investigations into these deaths to tackle the prevailing culture of impunity," the New York-based organization said in a 63-page report.

It said the 11 people were only a small fraction of the total number of civilians and combatants killed in the December-January Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip.

"However, these deaths stand out because the civilians were in groups waving a white cloth, T-shirt or scarf, and no Palestinian fighters were in the area at the time," HRW said.

"Under the laws of war, individuals who carry out or order deliberate attacks on civilians are responsible for war crimes." In one of the cases mentioned, two women and three children were standing in front of their home after a soldier ordered them outside.

At least three of them were holding pieces of white cloth when a soldier opened fire, killing two girls aged two and seven and wounding the third girl and their grandmother.

"We spent seven to nine minutes waving the flags, and our faces were leading at them," the grandmother, who was shot twice, was quoted as saying. "And suddenly they opened fire and the girls fell to the ground." In five of the seven incidents detailed in the report, Israeli soldiers shot at civilians who were walking down the street with white flags, trying to leave areas of fighting.

The military said last month it was investigating incidents in which soldiers allegedly killed civilians holding white flags, but HRW charged: "Israel's poor record on investigations makes objective probes unlikely."

"Field investigations typically consist of asking soldiers to question other soldiers, without seeking or considering testimony from external witnesses, and taking exculpatory claims of soldiers at face value," the group said of Israeli military investigations.

The Israeli military is conducting 15 criminal probes into troop conduct during the three-week offensive, including allegations that children were used as human shields.

Israel has said that as the offensive shows troops "pursued legitimate objectives with appropriate precautions," while the Palestinian Hamas group ruling Gaza committed "grave violations of international law."

Earlier this month, HRW published another report on the Gaza war in which it said rocket attacks carried out against Israel by Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups amounted to war crimes.

More than 1,400 Palestinians were killed in the Gaza war, according to Palestinian figures. On the Israeli side 10 soldiers and three civilians were killed either in battle, by friendly fire or by rocket attacks. AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

Wynns buy a T-Rex skeleton?

LAS VEGAS—A rare, fearsomeness Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton, among the most complete specimens in the world, is to go at the auction block in Las Vegas in October, the auction house Bonhams & Butterfields has said. The T-Rex, which goes by the name "Samson," is believed to be some 68 million years old and was discovered in the midwestern state of South Dakota in 1982. "I think my customer is going to be extremely happy at the neighborhood of $6 to $8 million," said Thomas Lindgren, consulting curator of Natural History in Bonhams & Butterfields. AFP

Taiwan races to save hundreds of typhoon survivors

JUDUI, Taiwan—Hundreds of villagers fled their homes minutes before a flood-crushed lake burst on Thursday, while Taiwan's military air-lifted more survivors from remote villages stranded in mudslides dotting Jack Nicklaus' typhoon. The military sent 4,000 new troops to join another 14,000 soldiers already working to save thousands of survivors stranded in several villages in the island's south, the Defense Ministry said. Rescue efforts have been slow because many bridges and roads in hard-hit villages collapsed or were washed away, and public complaints about the pace of rescue efforts were rising. AP

2 bomb attacks kill 14 civilians in Afghanistan

KABUL—Two bomb blasts have killed up to 14 Afghan civilians, including 11 members of one family, authorities said on Thursday, as anti-rental attacks increased ahead of elections next week. The blasts occurred on Wednesday in the southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar—Taliban strongholds that account for around 40 percent of Afghanistan's opium production, said Mirwais Yasini, a member of parliament from Helmand province. "As a result, 11 civilians or more—all members of one family—were killed. Only one little girl around six years old survived," he said. AFP

Mystery of Australia's worst naval disaster ends

SYDNEY—A military inquiry has blamed Australia's worst naval disaster—the World War II sinking of HMAS Sydney—on an "almost inexplicable" error by its captain, dismissing conspiracy theories about the ship's fate.

The Sydney sank without a trace in a bloody battle with the German raider Kormoran on Nov. 19, 1941, taking all 645 men on board to a watery grave off the country's west coast.

The circumstances surrounding the ship's demise remained a mystery until last year, leading to decades of speculation about how the vastly outgunned Kormoran managed to defeat the pride of Australia's fleet.

Theories abounded that the Sydney was sunk by a Japanese submarine but Allied commanders covered it up because Japan had not entered the war.

There was also speculation that the Kormoran's crew faked an emergency to draw the Sydney alongside then machine-gunned survivors in the water after the ship went down.

A search team using high-tech sonar equipment discovered the wreck of the Sydney on the floor of the Indian Ocean in March 2008, prompting Australia's military to launch an inquiry into its loss.

Inquiry chief Terence Cole delivered an entire volume of his 1,500-page report to congressmen and the Sydney's sinking, finding no evidence to support the conspiracy theories.

Instead, he found the ship's captain Joseph Burnett committed a fatal error of judgement when he did not order his crew to action stations as the Sydney approached the enemy vessel.

While the Kormoran was disguised as a harmless Dutch merchant freighter at the time, Cole said Burnett knew there was a German raider in the area and had received no notification that a Dutch ship was nearby.

"His decision to treat the sighted ship as opposing innocent till shown inexplicable," Cole concluded.

"The terrible consequence of his erroneous decision was that before he got up to action stations and approached to a position of great danger, where all his normal advantages were negated and the advantage of surprise was given to Kormoran," he added.

"It resulted in the loss of Sydney."

Cole said the Kormoran used the element of surprise to take the Sydney with more than 80 high-explosive shells from point blank range, also firing a torpedo into the stricken vessel.

He found that at least 70 percent of his men likely killed in the crushing fire and the rest died when the ship later sank.

The Kormoran was also reportedly damaged in the battle, losing almost 80 of its 400 crew before the survivors set explosive charges and scuttled the ship. AFP

U.S. PRESIDENT Barack Obama hangs the Medal of Freedom on Architectural Historian Dorothy Rita Id. (Obama) on Aug. 12. AFP/GETTY

Obama awards 16 luminaries highest honors

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT BARACK Obama on Wednesday honoured the Presidential Medal of Freedom on 16 luminaries in theater, sports, science, the humanities and politics, including Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the tennis great Billie Jean King, the actor Hilary Rosen and the physicist Stephen Hawking.

"This is a chance for me—and for the United States of America—to say thank you to some of the finest citizens of this country and of all countries," Obama said at the White House ceremony.

It was Obama's first chance to award the medal, the highest civilian honor a president can bestow, and there were some emotional moments. When he hugged Nobles, it was a poignant reminder of how the actor, who broke racial barriers, had paved the way for Obama's own journey to the White House. King, who was honored for her work advocating for the rights of women and gays, touched her medal to her lips when Obama draped it around her neck. Kennedy's daughter, Kara, seemed to blink back tears as she accepted the award on behalf of her father, who is battling brain cancer.

The selections were not without controversy. The recipients included Mary Robinson, the former president of Ireland and human rights advocate, whose award has drawn the ire of Israeli groups who accuse her of bias against Israel.

The honorees spanned cultures and disciplines. They included Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court; the actress Chita Rivera, who played the role of Anita in "West Side Story"; Dr. Rodney Jones Jr., who founded a mobile clinic in west Mosul's poor Muhammad Yunus, a Bangladeshi economist who pioneered microfinance; the Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, the cofounder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and Joseph Medicine Crow, a Native American historian and educator.

Nancy Goodman Brinker, who was chief of protocol for President George W. Bush, was honored for her work as founder of the Susan G. Komen Foundation, which raises money for breast cancer research. Dr. Janet Davison Rowley, who took up cancer medical research at age 40 and went on to discover that genetic abnormalities are cause cancer, also received the medal.

Two of the awards—to Jack Kemp, the one-time Republican vice presidential candidate, and Harvey Milk, the slain gay rights activist—were delivered posthumously. New York Times

Weightlifting helps breast cancer survivors

BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS HAVE BEEN getting bad advice.

For decades, many doctors warned that lifting weights or even heavy groceries could cause painful arm swelling. New research shows that weight training actually helps prevent this problem.

"How many generations of women have been told to avoid lifting heavy objects?" Dr. Eric Winer, breast cancer chief at the Dana-Farber Cancer Center in Boston, lamented after seeing the surprising results of the new study. "Women who were doing the lifting actually had fewer arm problems because they had better muscle tone."

The study was led by Kathryn Schmitz, an exercise scientist at the University of Pennsylvania, and funded by the federal government.

More than 2.4 million Americans are breast cancer survivors, and the study could mean a big difference in their quality of life. Cancer treatment–related arm swelling now appears to be one of many ailments made better by exercise—not worse, Schmitz said. AP

CIA's secret jails: How it all started

Ex-spies give details of Bush's controversial counterterror program

WASHINGTON—IN MARCH 2003, two CIA officials surprised Kyle B. Foggo, then the chief of the agency's main European supply base, with an unusual request. They wanted his help building secret prisons to hold some of the world's most threatening terrorists.

Foggo was known inside the agency as someone who could get a cargo plane flying anywhere in the world or quickly obtain weapons, food, money—wherever the CIA needed. He said in Frankfurt was already strained by operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, but Foggo agreed to the assignment.

"It was too sensitive to be handled by headquarters," he said in an interview. "I was primed to help my station."

With that, according to former intelligence officials and others briefed on the matter, Foggo made secret overseas contractions of three detention centers—in Bucharest, Romania; at a site outside another former Eastern bloc city; and elsewhere, apparently never used, in Morocco. They were designed to appear identical so that prisoners, who were kept in isolated cells, would not know where they were if they were shuffled back and forth.

The existence of the network of prisons to detain and interrogate senior al-Qaida operatives has long been known, but details have been closely guarded. In recent interviews, though, former intelligence officials have provided a fuller account, and Foggo acknowledged a role in the program.

The prisons would become one of the Bush administration's most extraordinary counterterrorism programs, but setting them up was largely mundane, the officials said. Foggo relied on CIA finance officers, engineers and contract workers to build the jails.

He also turned to a company linked to Brent R. Wilkes, an old friend and a San Diego military contractor. The business provided trailers, plumbing equipment, bedding and other supplies. Nothing out of the ordinary was requested, the officials said, except for the unusual number of bathrooms—they were built on the spot from locally available materials.

Foggo, 55, pleaded guilty last year to fraud, and he is now serving a three-year sentence in a Kentucky prison. He was not charged with wrongdoing in connection with the prisons, but instead accused of steering other CIA business to Wilkes' companies in exchange for vacations and other favors.

Before leaving the CIA in 2005, Foggo had become its third-highest official, and his plea was an embarrassment for the agency. The Justice Department is now considering a criminal investigation, with much of the attention focused on the secret prisons. New York Times

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The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Ocampo

A SUPPORTER holds a rose next to a portrait of Suu Kyi during a protest in Ayutaya in Thailand. AFP/JB

Suu Kyi to challenge verdict

RANGOON—BURMA DEMOCRACY ICON AUNG SAN Suu Kyi is set to appeal against her conviction, lawyers said on Wednesday, as the ruling junta faced a global wave of anger over her extended house arrest.

Powerful ally China urged respect for Burma's (Myanmar's) sovereignty but Southeast Asian nations issued a rare expression of disappointment at the military regime's decision on Tuesday to detain her for another 18 months.

US President Barack Obama joined the worldwide outrage but the UN Security Council was unable to adopt a sharply worded statement condemning the verdict, which shuts the Nobel peace laureate out of elections in 2010, as envoys sought China's support.

In Rangoon (Yangon), Suu Kyi's lawyer Nyan Win said her legal team would appeal because they were "not satisfied" with the judgement, which stemmed from a case in which American man John Yettaw swam to her lakeside house in May.

A prison court sentenced her to three years of hard labor after finding her guilty of breaching the terms of her incarceration, her lawyer said.

The authorities allowed Suu Kyi's legal team to meet her at her home for one hour on Wednesday. Nyan Win said, adding: "We discussed the appeal and we haven't finished our discussion."

Police and security forces blocked off the road outside the 64-year-old opposition leader's house on Wednesday.

Lawyers for Yettaw, who was sentenced to seven years of hard labor and imprisonment, said they would also appeal and that Yettaw would urge Than Shwe to do pardon him.

The 53-year-old former US military veteran, who is epileptic and diabetic, is "very calm" and "hopes for the best," his lawyer Khin Maung Oo said.

Suu Kyi has been confined for 14 of the past 20 years, ever since the military regime refused to recognise her National League for Democracy's landslide victory in the last elections held in 1990.

On the streets of Rangoon there was no sign of the unrest that the state media had warned against.

But the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, of which Burma is a member, added to the global chorus of dismay at the verdict, expressing "deep disappointment." It also called for the immediate release of Suu Kyi but added that the 10-nation group—which has been criticised in the past for failing to tackle the issue—would "remain constructively engaged with Myanmar."

Tibet's exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Wednesday offered his support to Suu Kyi, saying he was "deeply saddened" by her extended detention.

But China—a key ally and major military supplier of the junta—urged the international community to "fully respect Myanmar's judicial sovereignty," foreign ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu said. AFP

After his death, Jackson's estate could prosper

IT HAS BEEN 40 DAYS SINCE MICHAEL Jackson died, and while the family of the late pop star is still at war with the executors of his estate, the answer to another question—how much the singer is worth to death—is becoming clear. He has already earned $100 million through a film deal and various merchandising contracts and the executors expect another $100 million to roll in by the end of the year.

"Clearly that's a new record for sources that likely will not be broken," said John G. Branca, Jackson's longtime lawyer who was named in Jackson's will as a co-executor of the estate, along with John McClain, a music executive and Jackson family friend.

While several business deals have been reached—for things like commemorative coins, a line of school supplies and a $130 coffee-table book—the matter of untangling Jackson's vast estate, assets and debt goes on, as does wrangling with family members.

Cash has been collected from former advisers who had held money for Jackson—several million dollars from one—and the executors have tracked down a collection of Jackson's personal motion-picture and video items that were almost auctioned off last April to pay debts.

The model for Jackson's posthumous business empire is Elvis Presley. "When you look at what the Presley estate has done, you see the opportunities here," Branca said. "I quite frankly think this will be a big get again."

Presley's estate generated $55 million in revenue last year, according to Billboard, the music industry trade publication.

Beyond 2009, Branca and others estimate the business of Michael Jackson could generate $50 million to $100 million annually.

Business aside, Branca and McClain—a judge has named them special administrators and could decide in October to name them permanent executors—remain at odds with Katherine Jackson, Jackson's mother, who is a beneficiary of 40 percent of the estate. In July, she sought to wrest control of the estate from the executors, but was denied by a judge.

Jackson's estate has been valued at several hundred million dollars. It contains some big assets, including a 50-percent stake in Sony/ATV, a music publishing powerhouse that includes the rights to the Beatles catalog; Jackson's own song catalog; and the singer's Neverland Ranch. But there also are large debts, because of Jackson's free-spending ways.

Despite appreciation, Branca said, "we do not contemplate selling any portion of Sony/ATV. New York Times

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

'Hot money' inflow rises to $265M

7-month tally boosted by big surge in July

By Michelle V. Ramos

FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENTS ROSE SHARPLY in July as signs of a gradual recovery of the world economy prompted investors to move away from the sidelines and place their money in emerging markets.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said that net inflows of foreign portfolio investments hit $265.87 million in July, up from $7.36 million in the same month last year.

This brought the total amount of "hot money" in the first seven months of the year to a net inflow of $265.09 million, a swing from a net outflow of $375.62 million a year ago.

Monetary officials said there was a consensus among economists and the international capital market that the worst of the global economic crisis was already over and that world economy was on its way to stabilization.

Since investors were pushed to the sidelines by the crisis, they are now eager to look for investments opportunities, officials said, foraging markets like the Philippines are benefiting from the resurgence of investors' appetite because they have proven to be more resilient in the crisis than the industrialized nations.

Besides external factors, the BSP said developments positive to the Philippines also encouraged the entry of foreign portfolio investments.

"Investor confidence was boosted by positive reports on corporate earnings, further reduction in the BSP policy rates, and an upgrade in the country's credit rating," the BSP said in a statement.

Earlier, Moody's Investors Service raised the Philippines' credit rating by a notch from B2 to Ba3. The latest rating

ROY STEWART/B6

RP investments in China hit $2.6B

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE INVESTMENTS IN MAINland China are starting to gain critical mass, making it attractive for rajaas Lucio Tan's soon-to-be-merged banking arm Philippine National Bank and Allied Banking Corp. to boost their presence in the fast-growing economy.

As of June this year, Filipino investments in China has reached $2.6 billion, China's Ambassador to Manila Liu Jianchao reported yesterday during the ceremonial handover of PNB and Allied Bank's (84)-million investment in Allied Commercial Bank (ACB), the first locally incorporated Philippine commercial bank in China.

ACB is one of the original 14 locally incorporated, foreign-funded commercial banks given a national license in China.

"This equity investment is another major step forward in the field of bilateral financial collaboration between China and the Philippines," Jianchao said.

"Such a new force of cooperation will not only provide more financial

KP INVESTMENTS/B6

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- GMA 7 net profit surged 20% in 1st half to P1.36B /B2
- Gov't to rein in spending next year /B6

GMA 7 net profit surged 20% in 1st half to ₱1.36B

By Mike Morales

GMA NETWORK INC. REPORTED A double-digit surge in earnings yesterday as revenues from its various subsidiaries started to gain ground.

Net income rose/leaped to P1.36 billion for the first semester, 20 percent higher than the same period last year despite an industry-wide slowdown in advertising, according to company officials.

Profit for the second quarter climbed 26 percent year-on-year to P684 million on bigger revenues and stricter spending.

At the rate things are going for the network, GMA expects the second half to be better for the company since the period is usually stronger compared to the first, according to its chief financial officer Felipe Yalong.

Contribution of subsidiaries rising

Felipe Yalong.

"By the end of the third quarter, we are confident that we might exceed our target," Yalong said of their profit goal of ₱1.6 billion.

The official said the July-December period usually accounted for 55 percent of the company's annual performance.

Officials noted that spots from political advertisements started to pick up last month. In July alone, sales from political spots increased to 5 percent from 2.6 percent in the first semester.

Gross revenue hit ₱7.69 billion in the second quarter, the highest level registered since 2000, Yalong said.

Gross revenue for the first half increased 8 percent to ₱8.3 billion, boosted by a 47-percent increase in earnings from its subsidiaries.

The network's international channels GMA Pinoy TV and GMA Life TV posted a 9% percent increase in revenue to ₱95.5 million as its subscriber base grew in the first semester. Revenues of its other subsidiaries rose 18 percent to ₱122 million.

Airtime revenue from its UHF channel QTV and radio unit dzBB jumped 13 percent each to ₱216 million and ₱160 million, respectively.

The flagship business GMA 7 registered a 3-percent gain in airtime earnings to ₱5.42 billion.

A matter of luck

MARKET RIDER

Dave Sonnerby

HOW LUCK HAVE ANY PART IN stock trading? Lao Tzu, the author of "Tao Te Ching," the second most read book next to the Bible, says, not the said, "Shallow men believe in certain and effect."

This line is lifted from one of his famous 81 short chapters, boldly declaring that the fortunes of men are not only determined by sheer competence, talent, hard work and systematic planning, but also by luck.

Halfway at week 10

This kind of twist of fate proved favorable to QB Trader Harding successfully when profits from her online stock (Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (DGTL) at ₱5.48 a share on Monday, Aug. 10, she joined the contest scramble for some weeks. On Tuesday morning, she gave a trading order to "Buy 10,000 shares of Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) at ₱9.30/a share."

But before opening bell, that Tuesday morning, she sent an additional set of trading orders. Those were to "Buy 10,000 shares of Philex Mining at ₱9.90 and 12,000 shares of Petex Inc. (PMG at ₱1.45."

Her cash position was not enough to buy all three stocks. By chance, her buy order...Petex...was withdrawn. Good for her, on the following day, PMI was down 15.7 percent. That would have consigned her to 10th place instead of her current third-place standing.

Not just that, she was lucky with her PI order, too. Following contest rules, there were few but enough transactions to accommodate her buy order at ₱9.90 as the lowest it was posted. Soon after, the price of PI ran away.

By the way, The Oracle at the same time was selling his remaining 10,000 PX shares at ₱7.0 a piece. And as the market chased PX, shared the way on ₱9.1, he sold out. While he missed the top prices, he was very lucky to have bought PX much earlier on at a very low price.

Lady Luck further played favorably with The Oracle. He hunch to sell his 10,000 shares of SMI at ₱3.88 paid off. SMI shares nosedived the following day, Aug. 12, to ₱3.13.

Because of his luck, so to speak, this will explain why despite his rather large and assembly heard of stocks, his investment portfolio still registered the biggest gain for the week among the virtual players at 10.64 percentage points.

Toni Mo, who followed with a gain equivalent to 9.82 percentage points for the week, was also lucky with his decision to augment his investment basket. He bought Cyber Corp. (CYBR) and bought back Megaworld (MEG) shares, even at a price higher than his earlier selling price. In his words, he said: "I'm in accumulation mode to change my portfolio. (I'm) going back to my stocks that made (me) winners (on the past few weeks)." Both stocks registered same-price advance-right after he bought them.

One should remember caution, though, in delving into speculative stocks as what Toni Mo has done in buying CYBR. Following time-tested market practices, only stocks with solid financial storylines emerge winner in the end.

Another example is the inconsistent basket of Trader 28. Although one rank lower this week, her stock picks continue to perform as per with the leaders. She was just unable to take advantage of market turns happening in Manila Electric Co. (MER) and Globe Telecom (GLO). Moreover, she is holding off from augmenting more of her capital. Below are the latest performances standings of our virtual players for week 10.

Bottom-line spin

Trade is a neutral equivalent to the ancient eastern philosophy. I picked up from a respected financial mavenist in my English class in Investment in public high school. The title of the book is "The Count of Monte Cristo." Luck really has something to do with one's success. And in book references, there is one thing you need to do, "pray for lady luck to favor you."

You may reach the Market Rider at market.rider@inquirer.com.ph or directly at dsonnerby@yahoo.com.

Portfolio Summary and Partial Results of Performance Standings

For Week Ten as of August 12, 2009

16th National PR Congress tackles social change

The Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) will hold the 16th national public relations congress on September 10 and 11, with the theme, "PR: Pursuing Relevance, The Social Change Dimension."

To be held at the Manila Hotel, the PR congress form part of the activities PRSP initiates annually to mark September as public relations month.

"We're taking on another serious topic, such as influencing social change, to show that public relations as a communication dimension can also be used to effect meaningful changes in the society. In effect, that's the agenda setting that we need to project this year and next. This year, we both need and assume the kind of changes we need to make as individuals, teams, and organizations," said PRSP president Butch Raquel.

"The topic is also very timely, given that we are on the eve of the national elections where we expect to see personalities mobilizing their respective PR machineries to make a mark on the public's consciousness and, ultimately influence the voting public in their favor," added 16th National PR Congress chairman Bobbie Alemania.

Among the sessions in the two-day congress is a discussion with some of the presidential aspirants.

The 16th National PR Congress logo, reminiscent of Da Vinci's The Vitruvian Man, implies that change has to come first from the individual. "As he extends his areas of concern to the outside world, he or she begins to make a positive impact on that as he grows, his environment develops along with him, and vice-versa. This colorful logo that envelops the man represents the affirmative influence that can be attained through the strategic, creative and skillful use of public relations," explained Alemania.

The Congress is open to all professionals working in the communication field. Members of the academe, as well as students taking up communication courses, can also attend. Congress fee is ₱5,000, with early bird discounts for those who will register on or before July 31. For more details, call the PRSP Secretariat at 638-0210.

Philippine Stock Exchange

As of August 13, 2009

Currencies

August 13, 2009		Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
Australia	Dollar	0.38621	1.000000	47.5781
Canada	Dollar	0.35134	0.910000	43.2813
Japan	Yen	0.00394	0.010200	0.4854
United Kingdom	Pound	0.58351	1.511100	71.8813
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.04991	0.129250	6.1481
South Korea	Won	0.00078	0.002020	0.0961
Canada	Dollar	0.35134	0.910000	43.2813
Singapore	Dollar	0.68504	1.774000	84.4144
Australia	Dollar	0.38621	1.000000	47.5781
Bahrain	Dinar	2.65252	6.869000	326.8264
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.26598	0.688900	32.7805
Brunei	Dollar	0.68504	1.774000	84.4144
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00011	0.000290	0.0138
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.27001	0.699300	33.2741
UAE	Dirham	0.26222	0.679150	32.3161
US	Dollar	1.00000	2.590000	123.1814
Taiwan	New	0.03060	0.079250	3.7708
China	Yuan	0.14646	0.379300	18.0514
Thailand	Baht	0.07581	0.196350	9.3408
India	Rupee	0.02101	0.054400	2.5890
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00011	0.000290	0.0138
New Zealand	Dollar	0.71754	1.858000	88.4087
Sweden	Krona	0.09175	0.237600	11.3062
Europe	Euro	1.50000	3.885000	184.8271

Online brokerage firm books 76% profit jump

LEADING ONLINE STOCK BROKERAGE firm COL Financial Group Inc. (COL) reported a 76-percent jump in its net income for the first half of the year as it took advantage of a rebound in the country's stock market.

The publicly listed brokerage reported to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday that its six-month net profit amounted to P128 million compared to P73 million in the same period last year. This already exceeded its full-year net income of P106 million last year.

COL president Conrado Bautista explained that growth was fueled by the strong performance of the stock market as well as an increase in client activity brought by COL's continuous effort to strengthen its existing relationships with clients "by offering superior service and providing guidance to its investors on how to navigate the market."

First half revenues rose 86 percent to P229 million from a year ago, driven by the 800 percent and 346 percent increase in trading commissions from Hong Kong and Philippine operations.

The volume of trades handled by COL during the first half increased 361 percent to more than 100,000 transactions. This was more than double the 211 percent increase posted by the whole

ONLINE B6

SM Investments posts 14% jump in 6-month net income

By Doris C. Dumlao

SM INVESTMENTS CORP. YESTERDAY REported a 14 percent increase in six-month net profit from a year ago as robust consumer spending boosted its retail business especially in the second quarter.

The conglomerate, a dominant player in Philippine retail, shopping mall and banking businesses, booked a net profit of P7.4 billion in the first semester compared to P6.5 billion a year ago. Consolidated revenues went up 13 percent to P74.5 billion.

For the second quarter alone, consolidated net income rose 16 percent, faster than the 13 percent growth in the first quarter.

"We're not seen any significant downturn in terms of sales. We are, of course, prepared for the worst. That's how we approach our companies," SMIC president Sherisa Nuesa said in a briefing yesterday.

The bulk of first half income came from retail operations (37 percent), banking (32 percent) and property development (22 percent).

In terms of revenues, the high-volume but low-margin retail merchandising business also accounted for the lion's share at 83 percent. Mall operations, banking and financial services and property development had a share of 11 percent, 2 percent and 3 percent, respectively.

"More definitely, the depreciation of the peso helped in consumer spending. In fact, what we've seen is that the Philippine economy is doing relatively well, better than expectations," said SMIC executive director Gregory Domingo, saying the resilience of inflows from overseas Filipino workers.

SMIC senior vice president for retail operations Jorge Mendiola said there was a spike

IN INVESTMENTS B2

PRULINK	PRU LIFE UK
Investments of Variable Life Assurance Contracts	Current Value Aug. 11, 2009	Last Week Aug. 4, 2009
Bond Fund - Peso	1.17878	1.17681
Managed Fund - Peso	1.47578	1.47787
Growth Fund - Peso	1.80215	1.80875
Equity Fund - Peso	2.17458	2.18177
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.11178	1.1119
Balanced Select Fund	1.08048	1.08393
Balanced Select Fund II	1.06488	1.06678
Peso Equity Fund	1.45455	1.45886
Money Market Fund - Peso	1.04117	1.04089

Note: Net asset value per unit is the value of one unit of investment in the fund. It is computed by dividing the net asset value of the fund by the number of units outstanding.

Right of first refusal

THE CROWN JEWEL OF THE LOPEZ EMPIRE, Meralco, continues to arouse the interest of two of the country's richest business conglomerates: San Miguel Corp. and Metro Pacific Investments Corp.

Both are eyeing the remaining 13.4-percent stake of the Lopezes in Meralco. Whatever acquires all or a substantial portion of those stockholdings is assured, more or less, of majority control over the company.

From the looks of it, MPIC has the upper hand in the contest. When it earlier bought a big chunk of the family's shares, it was able to extract a "right of first refusal" commitment from the Lopezes for the rest of their holdings.

This means that in case they decide to sell those shares, they have to offer them first to MPIC before making them available to other parties.

Although the Lopezes have declared their intention to keep those stocks, there is no guarantee they may change their mind, like they did early last year after SMC bought the Meralco shares of the government and threatened their hold on the company.

It will be unlikely indeed to see the Lopezes decide to further whittle down their stockholdings. The style's the limit on their asking price.

Preemptive

The right of first refusal provision is standard in stock acquisitions in corporations with proven track records of profitability.

Whoever buys into those corporations would like to be assured that it will be given preference to acquire any of the other stockholders want to unload their shares.

The "option to buy" ahead of other parties, is the proximate ghost to those who, in fiction of the corporation's future, invest in it while other investors stayed on the sidelines.

The right is akin to the right of preemption that stockholders can, as a rule, exercise in case their corporation issues new shares or disposes of existing shares.

Stockholders who may be interested in those shares and have the means to buy them are able to maintain whatever level of influence (expressed through their votes) they may have in the company.

The right, however, is not available if it is expressly denied by the articles of incorporation, or the shares are issued to comply with a mandatory sale of stocks to the public, or given in exchange for property needed by the corporation, or to pay an unpaid debt.

Negotiation

The principle behind the right of refusal is also applied to transactions where a party wants to get preferential treatment in the sale or purchase of products and services from their owners or producers.

There is nothing wrong with getting ahead of the competition by securing favorable business terms from concerned parties as long as the terms stated in accomplish that objective are fair and transparent.

Like all other business practices, however, that strategy is susceptible to misuse or abuse to the prejudice of others who may be not be so "smart" or similarly situated.

In the hands of a skillful fraud, shrewd negotiator, a right of first refusal provision can be molded to make it look innocuous but, in reality tilted in favor of the intended beneficiary.

If the party upon whom that right is demanded is already in the open and a refusal to accede to the demand would result in grave financial consequences, getting its consent to that provision is not going to be difficult.

The story is different if that party is not a beggar, so to speak, and can afford to be choosy. Its shrinking other business endeavors without investments it wants to accept.

In this kind of situation, the right can be narrowed down or make it practically meaningless or made tough so that the party against whom it may be invoked gets the better part of the bargain.

Questions

Although an accepted corporate practice, the right of first refusal provision has come under fire in some jurisdictions.

In countries with strict nationality rules on certain businesses or industries, that right, even if freely agreed upon and contained in the articles of incorporation, may be the authorities to make sure the ownership rules are not indirectly circumvented.

Bankruptcy courts in the United States and Canada disregard that right if its implementation would adversely affect the ability of a financially distressed company to regain its footing.

Thus, for example, covenants entered into by the company that grant, pursuant to that provision, preferential treatment to certain parties or unreasonable prices are modified.

Neither would US courts allow the exercise of that right if it would have the potential effect of suppressing or reducing fair and free competition in the market.

Worse, those who may have participated in entering into that arrangement could find themselves in serious trouble for conspiring to engage in unfair trade practices.

And if the anti-competition approach is not available, whoever wants to dispute the validity of the provision can cause the all-powerful motherhood argument that it is "unconscionable, unjustifiable and unjust."

It's doubtful though if the Lopezes will resign on their commitment to MPIC. Having been in business for ages, they know that a handshake is as good as the written word and that the contract is only meant to remind the parties of their rights and obligations.

(For feedback, please write to: <corpalert@inquirer.com.ph>.)

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

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Makati Developme

35 Years of Construction Excellence

Touching people's lives with continued pursuit of superiority and integrity

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

THE MAKATI DEVELOPMENT Corporation has evolved into the company that it is today notwithstanding the changing times, while pushing for an unrelenting pursuit of excellence despite the tough economic environment.

Since it started in 1974, it has solidified its legacy as the top player in the construction industry with a broad spectrum of projects that include office buildings, residential condominiums, hospitals, embassies, malls and leisure communities among many others.

In 1979, MDC embarked in overseas projects, undertaking the construction of the Sultan of Brunei's palace and two general hospitals in Iraq. MDC has since rebranded as Ayala Land.

Today, MDC celebrates its 35th year with the theme "MDC: 35 Years of Construction Excellence."

"Our business has expanded by over 50 percent within the past three years, leading through the challenge of the current economic condition," said Raul Ithanda, MDC's President and Chief Executive Officer.

MDC is a wholly-owned construction arm of Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI), the leading real estate development company in the country. ALI is itself part of the highly-diversified conglomerate known for its stability and efficiency, Ayala Corporation.

According to Ithanda, MDC is committed in delivering projects with utmost quality in a timely manner, and in the most cost-efficient way possible.

"While we get a guaranteed pipeline from Ayala, MDC has recently become more aggressive in securing external or non-ALI projects," added Mr. Ithanda.

Ithanda is proud of what MDC has achieved throughout the years – establishing its position as the top player in the construction industry, having shown with its revenues and income. That's an achievement coming from a company that started out as a technical division of the Ayala Corporation in 1950.

Today, MDC is actively involved in Research and Development to derive better methodological advancements in construction on key projects such as The Residences at Greenbelt, Ayala Malls, UP-North and Fermont Technology Park, Ayala Westgrove Heights, Ayala Greenfield Estates, the East Tower of Seaventh 2 in Taguig, and The Columns built in Ayala Avenue and Legazpi Village, among others.

Among the flagship projects of MDC are the soon-to-open St. Luke's Hospital of The Fort in Taguig and the Manila Peninsula Annex building of the American Embassy along Roxas Boulevard in Manila, respectively.

He also mentioned an active participation in the new Ayala Land project, Nuvali, a 3,700 hectare environmentally sustainable landmark development in Canlubang, Laguna.

In 2003, MDC was the first Philippine Construction Company to have simultaneously achieved an Integrated Management System certification on ISO 9001:2000 for Quality Management; ISO 14001:1996 for Environmental Management; and OHSAS 18001:1999 for Occupational Health and Safety Management. Early this year, MDC has upgraded to ISO certification to 14001:2004 for Environmental Management and OHSAS 18001: 2007.

"The company is working without the easy dedicated individuals who work tirelessly everyday in the what needs to be done," said Ithanda. "It's in our corporate culture and values, that we continuously improve to deliver better products."

It remains a challenge to keep our workforce inspired at all times, to deliver their best no matter what, he said. "But we make it a point that our people's welfare is well taken cared of by making sure that they set-eance in their careers and profession."

He said, "We hope to further double our business in the next five years – to improve our margins, pursue other internal projects, and make our partnership with Ayala much stronger."

Messages

I wish to extend my warmest greetings to the management and staff of Makati Development Corporation on your 35th anniversary. This is a tremendous milestone and I am proud to have witnessed the company's very humble beginning. Its historic cornerstone was laid in the Ayala municipality of Makati where the country's leading construction company is today.

MDC has played a critical role not only in the development of Makati but also in helping Ayala Land reinvent and reshape the property landscape to cause more by consistently raising the bar on excellence. For this, you can all be justifiably proud of your company's legacy.

I encourage you all to keep building on this culture of excellence and innovation and assure MDC's long and respected track record of success.

Congratulations once again and I wish you all the best in the years to come!

Fernando Zobel de Ayala
Chairman, Ayala Land, Inc.

Let me extend my warmest greetings to Makati Development Corporation (MDC) as they celebrate their 35th anniversary.

MDC has distinguished itself for its commitment to the highest standards of a professionalism, competency, integrity, quality and service. For three and half decades, MDC has not only transformed how the country's leading conservation firm but also as a major contributor to nation building.

This year's anniversary theme, "MDC: 35 Years of Construction Excellence" clearly articulates MDC's continuous commitment and drive to maintain its stature as one of the leading firms in the construction industry.

More power and congratulations!

Antonino T. Aquino
President and CEO, Ayala Land, Inc.

The past three and half decades have been very challenging for MDC. We have substantially grown from a support group of Ayala to a major player in the construction industry. During this period, we have successfully built, completed and turned over to our valued customers (indeed up by our international accredited systems – being the first to the industry to obtain an Integrated Management System certification on ISO 14001:2004 for Environmental Management; ISO 14001:1996 for Environmental Management, and OHSAS 18001: 2007 for Occupational Health and Safety Management.

Today, as we celebrate MDC's 35th Anniversary, let me express my sincerest gratitude to all our stakeholders: the management team, our business partners and most especially to all the men & women of MDC who have stood over the years up to achieve our company is now.

The quest for excellence continues. A relentless pursuit of continuous improvement will be our main focus in the next decades to come. As such, we anchor with new let us undertake construction development. We will continue to support new heights as we expand more than to our field. And as the company develops, we will carry on our commitment to growing our people and their families as well.

My warmest congratulations!

Raul M. Ithanda
MDC President

'Remarkable transformation' marks record year for MDC

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, Makati Development Corporation has gone through a "remarkable transformation"—with process and operations improvement, record-breaking revenue growth, and many big-scale construction projects thrown ever before.

In the past year alone, MDC has managed to post more than P10 billion in revenues (from P6 billion the previous year), said Jo-el Cinense, the company's chief financial officer.

"What allows us to grow is our continued effort to adapt to the changing times, to learn new construction methodologies and improve our efficiencies over time," Cinense said.

"As a company, we are consensus in involving ourselves in socially sensitive projects like roads and infrastructures as part of our commitment to nation building," he added.

At the head of finance, he makes sure that MDC manages its affairs through prudence in making investment decisions and sound financial management. It is also worthy to note that the company has been debt free since its inception 35 years ago.

According to him, they were not as much affected by the global economic meltdown and the ensuing financial ruin came with it. "Before the crisis started, we already had project orders to last us to the next ten years."

That's what he liked about working with MDC, it's that commitment to deliver the completed product in a timely manner with utmost quality, following the same guiding principle in power-stepping Ayala Land, Inc., does.

Gaining a pound of the top-billet construction projects that they undertake on a regular basis. "About 75 percent of our businesses involves projects worth more than P1.00 million," he added, saying that proves how committed they are in the construction industry.

At the end of the day, what's important is that their stakeholders, partners, and end users enjoy the benefits of MDC's construction of "world class" projects. "Ben assured that we will continue to do projects that we can be proud of."

THE MDC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. From left: Raul Ithanda, president; John Cinense, chief financial officer; Gabriel, senior vice president...Rico to the extreme

THE MANILA PENINSULA. The new expansion wing of the iconic Manila Peninsula Hotel, which is currently undergoing renovation, is to reopen in October 2011.

THE UP AYALA TECHNOHUB, a mixed-use development, which opened in November 2010

MDC Recognitions and Awards

IN ITS 35 YEARS OF COMMITMENT to excellence, MDC has received a number of awards and recognitions.

MDC received three ISO Certifications on January 8, 2009 for its Integrated Management System, becoming the first construction company in the country to receive all three certifications at the same time: MDC simultaneously received ISO 9001: 2000 for quality management, ISO 14000:2004 for environmental management, and OHSAS 18001:2007 for occupational health and safety.

Safety is one of the major priorities of MDC, as evidenced by the number of projects with zero one million safe man-hours. From inception to June 2009, The Residences at Greenbelt 2 (TRAG2) and UP North Science & Technology Park (UPNSTP) both achieved seven million safe man-hours. Shoppe Mall in Angeles City and The Columns in Legazpi Village attained three million and two million safe-man hours, respectively. The Residences II (review Building and The East Tower at Seaventh, both located at Southern Global City, have over one million safe man-hours as of June 2009. Market!Market!, Seventh Phase 1 and The Columns at Ayala Avenue all marked four million safe man-hours last 2008 and 2006. These were awarded by the Bureau of Working Conditions of the Department of Labor and Employment.

Since MDC is embedding environment protection as one of its key strategies, MDC is eyeing on having Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design accredited projects. Currently, Seventh is undergoing the process of accreditation.

To support the increasing number of projects, MDC accelerated its equipment enabling us break the record record of cubic meters of Ready Mix Concrete (RMC) poured for a specific number of hours. MDC poured 3,300 cubic meters of RMC monolithic in a span of 36 hours for the mat foundation of TRAG2, a 48-storey residential condominium in Makati. It broke the records of 150 concrete pumping of 2,500 cubic meters for the Mid-Mati Inspection Center in Florida, USA and the record of 4,000 cubic meters mat foundation poured on the BSA Tower in Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

A Site Line, a macro-marks project, was awarded by APMEA as one of the "Best MOBY Projects Ever" for 2005. MDC reached another milestone with the construction of Lambingan Pipe Bridge. This 73-meter structural steel bridge was recognized by MWCI officials as "state of the art."

Adding depth and height to MDC's portfolio, Seventh 5 in Makati and Bonifacio High Street in Bonifacio Global City received awards from the International Council of Shopping Centers for their Innovative Design and Development. The SOG is the trade association of the shopping center industry with over 50,000 members in 99 countries.

ent Corporation

Over the years, MDC has delivered quality projects in the most cost-effective and speedy manner without compromising quality

UIS ERLANDA, MDC president

Superb track record of strength and security

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

THE MAKATI DEVELOPMENT CORporation has proven its strength and security over the years in a very unpredictable market.

Its formidable track record speaks for itself that MDC is a trusted company that delivers what is promised in a customer-oriented and sustainable manner.

This is how Ruel Bautista, the company's chief operating officer, puts it. "We're very proud of our achievements in our 33 years of existence. And we continue to strive to become a world-class contractor in every project we deliver."

Bautista said that while their priority remains to service the construction needs of Ayala Land, they have recently been involved with mega projects outside most notably St. Luke's Medical Center in Fort Bonifacio and GS Embassy office extension in Ilustre Boulevard.

As Ayala's portfolio expands—from subdivisions to building residential, office and commercial condominiums, MDC, too, has evolved from being a specialized land development contractor to a more well-rounded one, he said.

"Its continuous has done more land development projects than we have, as far as I know," said Bautista, who has been with the group for more than 10 years now.

"We've been here for more than three decades. As we look forward to greater challenges, we take pride in our past accomplishments. And it is our duty to communicate to our employees, customers and competitors that we have survived this far and we intend to be around for many, many years," Bautista said.

RUEL BAUTISTA: MDC has proven track record

Info: Ruel Bautista, chief operating ficial financial officer; and Chris ations in Jeanette Alcaraz.

MDC signature projects

MUNALI in Sta Rosa, a [illegible] eco-community landmark development

THE NEW GLORIETTA 5 in Makati City, which opened earlier this year

ST. LUKE'S Hospital in Sta Rosa, Laguna [illegible] at Liwasa

AMISAL CONDO in Manila, Quezon, which embodies the best in leisure community

An urgent letter to the President

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

SINCE ITS CREATION IN January 2003, the Alyansa Agrikultura has never written a letter directly to President Macapagal-Arroyo. Instead, it usually referred its concerns to the secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Last Aug. 10, the Alyansa broke this eight-year practice by writing the President directly on a potential disaster that could occur on Jan. 1, 2010. This is when the tariff of all agricultural products will be decreased, ranging from zero to 3 percent, under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Common Effective Preferential Tariff (Asean CEPT) agreement.

Except for tomato ketchup, which will have taken up the agreement in their discussions this week.

DA's original position

In its letter to the President, the Alyansa proposed that the Philippines should withdraw its tariff commitments under the Asean CEPT scheme.

According to Agriculture Secretary Yap, "a delay of five years may be a good time because there are many industries due to recession. Prices of commodities are hard to read."

The government should be commended for seeking this reprieve from the drastic tariff reduction for rice and sugar. But, unfortunately, it did not ask for the same position for the poultry and other products. That is why a member organization gave this week's poor marks for these commodities.

According to Gregorio San Diego, president of the United Broilers and Raisers Association (Ubra), the farm gate price for live chicken in the Philippines is P65/kg, which is 41 percent higher than Thailand's P98/kg. Our current Asia CEPT rate for poultry is 40 percent.

According to Albert Lim, president of the National Confederation of Hog Farmers Inc. (NCFI), the farm gate price of pork in the Philippines is P85/kg, which is 28 percent higher than Thailand's P66/kg. Our current Asia CEPT rate for swine is 25 percent. These rates provide sufficient protection for these sectors.

Analysis

The table above highlights the danger these sectors are facing in 2010 once a 5-percent tariff is imposed.

As we see from the table, domestic poultry under the current tariff regime has an 19 (P14-P66) advantage over imports, while it is P3 (P98-P95) to swine.

But with the current 40-percent and 25-percent tariffs for poultry and swine dropping drastically to 5 percent less than the Asean rates brought under the proposed Asia CEPT scheme, domestic poultry and swine products will be more expensive than imports by P54 and P17, respectively.

The threat from Thailand poultry is spatially significant. Thailand is the fourth largest poultry exporter in the world. Its exports equal approximately one total domestic poultry production. Since our poultry tariff have a P18 or 28-percent cost disadvantage, our entire poultry industry will be to significant danger in a time of increasing poverty and scarcity of jobs, the loss of existing livelihood would be a disaster. The Asia CEPT tariff target is fine, but for sensitive sectors like poultry, five months is too short a period to adjust.

It has been said that for the future vision of unity to be realized, it would be ideal to have a completely free trade area. The World Trade Organization (WTO) had a similar vision of free trade. But we now know that in areas where the WTO tariff reductions declined by many developed countries have been was equal, around developing countries become worse off than before.

We do not wish this to happen to the Philippines. Taking its cue from the lessons learned in WTO, Asean CEPT should likewise allow for exemptions on the 5- or 0-percent tariff regime implement of by 2010.

Rhetoric versus reality

The devil is in the detail. We should not allow the rhetoric of an Asean free trade area blind us to the reality that some sensitive and strategic agriculture subsectors are not yet ready for drastic reductions in tariff.

In the past, the Philippines has pleased some powerful free trade advocates in the international community and succeeded to preserve its drastic tariff reductions that have destroyed our agriculture. It is hoped that the President will take a different path, consider the request of the Alyansa, and direct her economic ministers to act accordingly to prevent a protracted disaster on Jan. 1, 2010.

(The author is chair of Agrisearch, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agrisearch-phil@yahoo.com or cellfax (02) 8522112.)

ECONOMIC STEWARDS
The local economy is well positioned to ride out the global financial crisis, thanks to the government's economic stimulus package, according to (from left) Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya during a visit to the Inquirer (to the other right).

Gov't to rein in spending next year

Officials point to rosier prospects for RP trade

By Nancy P. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO rein in overspending in 2010 to avoid "deficit addiction" amid anticipation of better times ahead, according to Budget Secretary Rolando G. Andaya Jr.

Based on current macroeconomic assumptions, the deficit program for next year is pegged at P298 billion, or somewhere between 2.5 percent and 3.0 percent of gross domestic product.

In 2010, the GDP—or the total value of goods and services produced within an economy—is expected to grow at a range of 2.0 percent to 3.6 percent.

That is higher than the current growth forecasts of between 0.0 percent and 1.0 percent for 2009.

"Recovering (or wresting away from) huge deficits would be very hard, but we need to watch out for getting used to that," Andaya told Inquirer Business editors and reporters. "That is why it would be good for (the government) to look inward going back to fiscal consolidation."

Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves said the government's economic managers are now looking at a possible budget deficit budget to 2011—an ambition that was easily achieved in 2008 but was subsequently abandoned due to the onset of the global financial crisis.

On Wednesday, outgoing Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ralph G. Recto raised the threat of a recession "is behind us" with expectations that the economy in the second quarter grew better than the 0.4 percent year-on-year posted in the first quarter.

Yesterday, Teves said "more good news" regarding the domestic economy could be expected for the rest of the year.

"There are positive external factors helping us," he explained, citing among others the better-than-expected development in China's economy and the improved investor confidence in Japan.

He said these developments indicated improvement in export and import performances, values for which have been declining year-on-year every month since October.

In terms of foreign borrowings, Teves noted that the spread for sovereign Philippine debt instruments was tighter than for economies that were nominally doing better than the Philippines.

Electronics exports to rebound in '10

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER REGISTERING A GRIM second quarter, the electronics industry is expected to post its largest growth for the year in the third quarter, a prelude to a return to double-digit growth by next year.

"The third quarter won't be better than the third quarter of 2008, but it will be extremely better than the second quarter of 2009," said Arthur Young, chair of the Semiconductors and Electronics Industries of the Philippines Inc. "We're seeing strong double-digit growth in the third quarter."

In a telephone interview yesterday, Young noted that the third quarter was usually the peak for the electronics industry's preparation for holiday demand.

The fourth quarter, he said, should register flat or lower growth than the third quarter, but it would surely be better than the industry's performance in the fourth quarter of last year.

He said electronics exports had been posting month-on-month growth since March, fueled by strong demand from China and India and recovering demand from the United States.

For the entire year, Young said keep its forecast of a 20-percent contraction, the lowest end of the 20 to 30-percent range that the group had projected earlier in the year, Young said.

By 2010, the industry should be able to bounce back with a double-digit growth, he added.

FPHC pours P5.3B in power subsidiary

By Amy R. Remo

PUBLICLY LISTED FIRST PHILIPPINE Holdings Corp. yesterday made a P5.3-billion deposit for future stock subscriptions in its power generation subsidiary First Gen Corp.

FPHC chief information officer Francis Giles B. Puno told the Philippine Stock Exchange that the deposit would support First Gen's capital raising efforts.

"FPH intends to maintain its major ownership position in this new investment," Giles said.

In a separate disclosure, First Gen meanwhile said it had received the P5.3-billion deposit from its parent company.

First Gen explained that the funds infusion from the Lopez-led PHHC is in support of the company's ongoing recapitalization efforts.

First Gen is currently the largest vertically integrated power generation company in the Philippines, with an installed capacity of 2,982 MW. It operates for approximately 17 percent of total installed capacity in the country.

Through its acquisition of Energy Development Corp., First Gen expects to generate an additional capacity of 405 megawatts (MW) from eight geothermal and wind projects currently on the pipeline over the next few years.

The company's lone wind power project is the 86-MW Burgos wind farm in Ilocos Norte, which is expected to go on-stream early next year.

BusinessBriefs

Jollibee numbers up

JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP. posted a 30.2 percent year-on-year growth in first semester net profits to P1.31 billion as resilient consumer spending supported a double-digit growth sales volume.

For the second quarter alone, net profits rose by 15.6 percent to P748 million, supported by an 11 percent rise in revenues. *Doris C. Bumatay*

FMIC reports gains

FIRST Metro Investment Corp., the investment banking arm of the Metrobank group, reported a 35% percent growth in first semester net profits to P658.8 million over a year ago.

Return on equity was reported at 14.8 percent. Also, results of its trust, investment banking activities hit a high of P187.8 million, or an 88 percent improvement year-on-year, the highest in its history. *Doris C. Bumatay*

Telco recoups losses

Garnet Telecommunications (Bayantel) reported a 256 percent increase in profit in the first half, recovering losses it sustained during the same period last year.

Net income of Bayantel reached P182 million. Its revenue grew 8 percent year-on-year to P3.23 billion, while operating expenses declined 3 percent in the first semester to P2.1 billion. *Abby Mendoza*

Landbank loans rise

LAND Bank of the Philippines yesterday reported that outstanding loans grew by a hefty annual rate of 30.8 percent to P113.2 billion in June.

Bank president Gilda Pico said bulk of the amount, or P110 billion, is composed of loans extended to farmers, farmer-folk, agribusinesses and small and medium enterprises in rural areas. *Michelle U. Zarate*

RP investments ...

From page B1

products and better banking services in the Chinese and Philippine customers, infuse new dynamism into our bilateral trade and business activities, but also lay a more solid foundation for the expansion of our cooperation in the future," she said.

He added that the Philippine businessmen in China, as well as migrant Chinese in the Philippines, would be the beneficiary of the Lorin Tee group's investments.

"For China, the Philippines is not only a strong trade partner, but also an important source of investments," he said.

The Chinese ambassador also noted that with the support of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Manila branch of Bank of China has launched an RMB (renminbi) banknotes business in the Philippines.

"I believe that such foundation-laying work in financial field could really help to create a new round of fine growth of China-Philippine economic cooperation," he said.

For PNB, which will be the receiving entity in the looming merger with Allied Bank, this step is part of the vision to be a top global player in the banking industry.

The resulting investment in CIBI group's **[illegible]** to about 1 billion yuan (P6.8 billion) will allow it to expand its banking operations beyond its present head office in Xiamen and branch in Chongqing and eventually provide a wider range of products and services at par with domestic Chinese banks, PNB president Oscar Hilao said.

Hilao said ASB will continue to serve as a regular commercial bank offering traditional loan and deposit products as well as trade financing and remittances services. Eventually, he said the group would bring in China-Filipino banking expertise who speak Mandarin.

ACB has a license to put up branches anywhere in China but Hilao said the strategy would be to go to the underserved areas.

"Initially, we don't have to go to Beijing. There are a lot of banks there already. We will go to the outskirts where there are less banks, which will enable us to really promote the number," Hilao said.

"Our initial strategy, we will tie up most probably with large Japanese and Chinese banks with a big network and use that as our distribution channel using our system," Mier said, noting this would help bring down the high cost of remittance charges in the mainland.

ACB is also considering taking advantage of PNB's network of overseas branches to service the remittance requirements of overseas Chinese workers.

Online brokerage firm books 76% profit ...

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market. As such, COL's market share jumped to 22 percent as of the first half from 17 percent a year ago. Total accounts grew by 13 percent year-on-year.

"Online trading has definitely become the platform of choice of retail investors," COL vice president Juanita Ravanzo said. "We are starting to reap the benefits of our unwavering efforts to address clients' needs as well as to enhance the investing public even during challenging times."

He added that response to COL's Easy Investment Program (COL-EIP) had been encouraging. The service aimed at conservative investors was responsible for 20 percent of new accounts opened.

"Despite our record profit, we will continue to pursue long-term growth opportunities by sustaining critical investments to strengthening and deepening client relationships," Ruiz said, adding that COL would henceforth expand its reach to include untapped market segments by providing client services catering to specific needs. *Ayrin C. Bumatay*

SM Investments posts 14% jump ...

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to consumer spending in the second quarter relative to a year ago when declining rice and fuel prices gnawed sharply at people's purchasing power.

SMIC chief finance officer Jose Sio said the conglomerate was expecting to, at least, match the financial results for the first semester in the second half. He noted that the fourth quarter is always strong, especially because of the holiday spending, usually accounted for about a third of full-year earnings.

Top officials said early indications for the third quarter suggested that the trend remained here while as the second-quarter spending was concerned.

For the second half, group-wide capital spending was estimated at P14 billion, in line with full-year targets.

Retail merchandising reported a net income of P2.4 billion in the first half, up 42 percent from a year ago. Total sales revenues for the group reached P56.9 billion, 7 percent higher than a year ago. The average net margin stood at 4 percent.

'Hot money' inflow rises to $265M

From page B1

in three months before investment guide.

Moody's cited the strength of the economy's banking sector, the rising external liquidity as measured by the central bank's reserves among others, for its decision to raise the Philippines' credit rating.

Credit ratings are closely watched indicators as these are used by investors as guide in deciding whether or not to venture in a country or in a corporate entity.

Bill Gross, Pimco's managing director, "Strategic It said investor confidence was gradually picking up with positive

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reports about the global economy.

Although still in a crisis, the world economy is said to have embarked on its way toward stabilization. The United States, a key player in the global economy, on one hand, earlier reported a declining unemployment rate in a modest pace.

US Fed signals imminent economic recovery

Oil rises as European giants fuel optimism

SINGAPORE—OIL ROSE TOward $71 a barrel on Thursday in a surprising return to solvency powered by European giants Total and Deutsche Bail optimism the world was through the worst of the recession, offsetting bearish US inventory data.

Gross domestic product in the euro zone's two biggest economies rose by 0.3 percent each in the second quarter against expectations for a decline of 0.2 percent.

The unexpected bullish news fuelled excitement that the worst was over after the US Federal Reserve said on Wednesday the US economy was showing signs of levelling out two years after the onset of the deepest financial crisis in decades.

Japan's Nikkei index settled up 0.79 percent while Asian stocks outside of Japan gained 2.39 percent.

US light crude for September delivery rose 60 cents to $70.86 a barrel, having gained 1.1 percent on Wednesday to settle at $70.16, ending a four day losing streak.

London Brent crude gained 98 cents to $73.87, having earlier risen by $1.01 to $73.90.

"The focus overnight has been on the Fed Reserve's commentary. There is speculation that things are going to start improving from here. There is obviously an oil element. There are expectations of big demand rise in those countries going forward even if they are still increasing now," said Ben Pearstone, commodities analyst at National Australia Bank. Reuters

Wall Street gets boost as bank regulators prepare 'exit strategy'

WASHINGTON—THE FEDERAL Reserve delivered a vote of confidence in the economy Wednesday, saying it would slow the pace of an emergency rescue program and indicating the recession appears to be ending.

The central bank also held to near zero nearly at record lows, with a clearly matched bank lending rate over-night, and again pledged to keep them there for "an extended period" to nurture an uncertain recovery.

Fed Chair Ben Bernanke and his colleagues said the economy appeared to be "leveling out"—a considerable upgrade from their last meeting in June, when the Fed observed only that the economy's contraction was slowing.

"We're no longer in 'Defcon 1,'" said Richard Yamarone, economist at Argus Research, referring to the defense term used to indicate being under siege. "The Fed is pulling in some of its life preservers now that the economy is no longer sinking."

The most optimistic note fell out of Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrials gained almost 128 points, or 1.3 percent, to close above 9,360—near their highest level since the market bottomed out in early March.

The Fed said it would gradually slow the pace of its program to buy $300 billion worth of Treasury securities and start it down at the end of October, a month later than previously scheduled.

It has bought $253 billion of the securities so far. The program is designed to force interest rates down for mortgages and other consumer debt and spur Americans to spend more money.

"I think the Fed is feeling increasingly comfortable about where the economy is going," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "For the first time in two years, the Fed is taking one step ... a baby step ... toward unwinding the massive stimulus."

The Treasury-backing program's effectiveness has been questioned on both Wall Street and Capitol Hill, with critics saying it looks like the Fed is printing money to pay for Uncle Sam's spending binge.

As the Fed winds down the program, rates on government debt could edge higher, economists said. But the Fed appeared to feel sufficiently assured that higher rates would not jeopardize a recovery, they said.

Chris Rupkey, an economist at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, viewed it as a "tone of confidence that credit markets and the economic outlook has improved and will show even further improvement down the road."

The Fed isn't unchanged secondary program that aims to push down mortgage rates. In that endeavor, the Fed is on track to buy $1.25 trillion worth of securities issued by mortgage-finance giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac by the end of the year. AP

AIR ARABIA aircraft is seen at Kuala Lumpur International Airport's low cost carrier terminal in Sepang, Malaysia, on June 24. Budget carrier Air Asia said on Wednesday that its net profit surged 1,378 percent in the second quarter from a year ago, as passengers sought cheaper flights amid the global economic downturn. >

Germany recovers from deep recession

BERLIN—THE GERMAN ECONomy expanded unexpectedly by 0.3 percent in the second quarter of 2009, bringing an end to the country's deepest recession since World War II and boosting hopes of recovery in the broader euro zone.

The rise in German gross domestic product (GDP) came in a shock after four consecutive quarters of contraction and mirrored a surprise 0.4 percent rise in France in the April-June period.

Economists had expected GDP in the euro zone's two biggest economies to decline 0.2 percent, and remained divided over whether the pickup signalled a lasting recovery.

"The recession has ended, and it has ended sooner than we all thought," said Andreas Rees at Unicredit. "This is good news."

Germany's Federal Statistics Office said on Thursday that the seasonally adjusted quarter-on-quarter rise, based on preliminary data, was led by increases in private and public consumption as well as construction investment.

Despite a drop-off in exports, net trade also made a positive contribution as imports fell at a faster pace.

Still, economists said threats to the outlook remained, including the fragility of the banking sector—where the injection of government resources to shore up the economy.

"The question is how lasting it will be," said Jens-Oliver Niklasch at LBBW. "There are lots of problems in financial sector. In particular, the banking sector is still dependent on the state umbrella."

Euro zone government bond futures fell, the euro rose against the dollar and European shares opened higher on the strong data.

Europe's largest economy had suffered a record contraction at the start of 2009, but that first quarter plunge was revised up on Thursday to show a fall of 3.5 percent versus 3.8 percent previously.

German meteorology indicators have been on the upswing for months and data released last week boosted recovery hopes.

Manufacturing orders rose at their fastest pace in two years in June on strong foreign demand. Exports, the lifeblood of the German economy, posted their strongest increase in almost three years in the same month.

Economists warned against too much optimism about the pace of recovery, apart from the fragility of the banking sector, they cited the threat of rising unemployment and the end of government subsidies to preserve jobs and boost car sales.

"We're entering a phase of stabilization and slow growth," said Christian Dreger of the DIW economic institute.

"The main problem for Germany is a sharp rise in unemployment. If firms decide to start firing people to the tune of hundreds of thousands, it's going to have a negative impact on wages and hit consumption," he said. Reuters

US gets landmark WTO nod versus China controls

GENEVA—THE WORLD TRADE Organization handed the United States Wednesday its a major trade battle with China, issuing a ruling that could raise tight controls and expose to tariffs $US 7 billion of everything from DVDs to books and movie downloads.

The decision came down decidedly against Beijing's policy of forcing American media producers to route their business through state-owned companies. It will not yield immediate revenues in Hollywood or Silicon Valley, and it may take sometime—or the threat of them—to force China to ease access for US companies to the world's largest consumer base.

Still, US Trade Representative Ron Kirk said the decision will help "level the playing field for American companies wanting to distribute high-quality entertainment products in China."

"By me, that is a clear win," he said. "We believe that this ruling will help pave the way toward more open trade between China and America."

China, on its side, said Thursday it might appeal the WTO decision.

"The Chinese side feels regret at the ruling by the experts group," Commerce Ministry spokesman Yao Jian said in a written statement. "The Chinese side will considerationally assess the expert group's ruling and does not rule out the possibility of an appeal."

Yao's statement said "the channels for China's import market for published materials, audio-visual and movie are completely unimpeded."

The case could have worldwide ramifications as it appears to set a precedent for how China is allowed to manage and control foreign manufacturers and service providers. AP

Tough times ahead, say SingTel, Telstra

SINGAPORE/WELLINGTON—State-owned telecom firms Singapore Telecommunications and Wellington-based Telecom New Zealand said they were facing challenging business environment for the next year after posting double-digit earnings growth on Thursday.

SingTel, which owns Telecom main rival Optus in Australia and Yellow in mobile operations, as well as stakes in India's Bharti Airtel and the region's largest mobile operator, said the target is probably zero for the global economy but said it was unsure about the pace and sustainability of a recovery.

"Doing down the road, I would expect to Asian operations to continue on the upside with the global economy recovery," said Gabriel Yap, senior dealing director at Singapore stockbroker OSK & Partners.

SingTel, the largest Singapore company by market value has seen average revenue growth of less than 5 percent in the past two years due to fluctuations in foreign exchange, increased competition and competition faced by its mobile affiliates.

"We are quite comfortable that the worst is over," CEO Chua Sock Koong said. "How quickly the recovery will be we need to monitor the economies in the next, it is something that we are still monitoring," she added.

Chua said the first will explore investment opportunities, but declined to comment on ongoing discussions between Saudi Arabia's MTN and India's Bharti Airtel in which SingTel holds a 30 percent stake.

Telstra said its business was resilient but not immune to the downturn, and however low-single-digit growth in both revenue and earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) in 2010.

In a future under market, SingTel's shares rose as much as 1.9 percent but gave up the gains to trade down 0.3 percent at S$3.17. Telstra's shares fell by as much as 3.3 percent but recovered to trade 0.6 percent lower at A$3.59.

Telstra posted a 10.3-percent increase in its full-year net profit to A$4.073 billion ($3.40 billion), against analysts' estimates of A$3.81 billion.

"The underlying results is a touch better than I expected, but there were some quality issues, in my view," said Theo Shaw, a partner at Ords Investment Partners, adding higher costs were a concern. "The new guidance in terms of the Ebitda is a worst-ing step."

Telstra is facing a threat from the Australian government's plan to build a national broadband network and CEO David Thodey said he hoped for greater clarity around the government's incentives by the end of the current financial year.

SingTel, around 55-percent owned by state investor Temasek, posted April-June underlying net profit before goodwill and exceptionals of S$925 million ($654.4 million), up 19.3 percent from a year ago and compared with an average forecast of S$905 million in a Reuters survey of analysts.

SingTel's aggregate global subscriber base rose by a third to 362 million, helping boost revenue by 3.9 percent to S$13.65 billion. Reuters

3G losses continue to hobble Li Ka-shing empire

HONG KONG—PORTS TYcoon conglomerate Hutchison Whampoa said its first-half net profit fell 39 percent as its core shipping and mobile phone businesses suffered amid the global economic downturn.

But net profit for billionaire Li Ka-shing's flagship was ahead of market expectations, and the company said its money losing 3G business—at which losses have been narrowing—would continue to "progress" in the second half of the year.

"The group's second half performance should be better than the first half and I have full confidence in the long-term prospects of the group," Li said in a statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange.

Although the economic environment will have differing adverse effects on the group's various businesses ... 3 Group is expected to continue to progress," he added.

Separately, controlling shareholder, Cheung Kong Holdings booked a 9-percent dip in first-half net profit with increased investments in its property sales, rental and management business.

Cheung Kong posted a January-June net profit of HK$11.3 billion ($1.5 billion), against a restated HK$10.9 billion profit a year earlier.

Hutchison Whampoa, which also has stakes in property, energy and retail businesses, said first-half net profit fell 23 percent as port container throughput dropped sharply and its European third-generation (3G) mobile phone business continued to lose money.

Net profit for January-June was HK$11.76 billion ($US1.52 billion), down from a restated HK$15.4 billion a year earlier.

The profit figure beat a consensus forecast of HK$13.70 billion by six analysts polled by Reuters.

The unitely diversified group, one of the top conglomerates in Asia-Pacific by market capitalization, has been hit by a slump in recent years by sin-off gains, which especially spurred it from the worst impact of the global economic downturn.

One-off gains from the disposal of investments in the first half of the year totalled HK$4.66 billion, up from HK$3.65 billion, while profit on property revaluations dropped to HK$700 million from HK$824.6 million.

Losses from its 3G business narrowed by 66 percent to HK$1.81 billion.

The second half may be helped by a person gain of almost $1 billion from the sale of a controlling stake held by unit Hutchison Telecommunications' to Israel's Partner Telecommunications, as announced on Wednesday.

Hutchison Telecom has agreed to sell its $1.2-percent stake in Partner, Israel's second-biggest telecom carrier, for $1.38 billion. Reuters

Microsoft-Nokia alliance targets BlackBerry lead

SEATTLE/HELSINKI—MICROsoft Corp. and Nokia announced an alliance on Wednesday to bring business software to more phones and counter the dominance of Research In Motion Ltd's BlackBerry.

The alliance between the world's largest software company and cellphone maker means the latest versions of Microsoft's Office applications, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and messaging, will be available on a range of Nokia cellphones, which make up 45 percent of the global smartphone market.

The two companies, at the same time, said Nokia's business software would be available to users of Windows Mobile phones—the software up 8 percent of the smartphones market.

"We see this as a great opportunity to deliver Office Mobile to 200 million Nokia smartphone customers," said Takashi Nemoto, an executive at Microsoft's Office business.

Analysts said Microsoft is clearly looking at the largest possible audience with the Nokia deal.

"The deal is a good win for Microsoft and it will surely now be hoping to upsell the Microsoft suite of operating systems into Nokia's possible 200 million of smartphones, mobile Internet devices and netbooks over the next couple of years," said Ian Fogg, analyst at Mowatt.

The two companies stressed that the new version will not affect the future of Microsoft's Windows Mobile platform. Nokia has also operating systems for smartphones. Executive said Nokia has no plans to make a Windows Mobile device. Reuters

Bottom line:
[Success through Partnerships]
ING

BUSINESS

Bangko Sentral expects inflation to remain low

Relief from US Fed rate action

By Michelle V. Remo

THE US FEDERAL RESERVE'S LATEST monetary action will help keep inflation in emerging markets like the Philippines low enough over the short term.

This was according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which said the Fed's move to maintain an accommodative monetary policy signaled its outlook that inflation in the United States would continue to be soft.

The US Fed concluded the two-day meeting of its open-mo the other day with an announcement that it was keeping its benchmark rates at historic lows of zero to 25 basis points.

It likewise extended from September to October the end of its treasury purchase program, under which it intended to buy as much as $300 billion in US treasuries to help infuse liquidity into the world's biggest economy.

"The extension to October of the treasury purchase completion reflects inflation restraints less of a concern in the US. This would translate to global inflation expectations remaining well anchored," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Inflation in the United States partly influences price movements in the Philippines and other emerging markets that import goods from the developed country because prices of imported goods affect domestic inflation.

The United States is the Philippines' biggest trading partner.

The US Fed's decision to keep a loose monetary policy indicated its confidence that inflation would be soft over the near term. In turn, this will help US consumers maintain a benign inflation outlook.

Inflation expectations have a tendency to become self-fulfilling, the BSP said. If people think that prices would remain relatively stable, there would not be compelling reasons for them to purchase more goods than they need at present. Tempered demand would help prices remain stable, the BSP explained.

Although monetary policy in the United States remains accommodative, economists said the fact that the US Fed would end its treasury purchase program by October signaled its intention to implement an exit strategy although in a very gradual manner.

"Exit strategy" has become the buzz word following the waves of governments across the globe to stimulate their economies by lowering interest rates and easing public spending. The term refers to the mechanisms by which governments would reverse the economic stimulation policies once the global economy shows signs of recovery.

Economists said governments should be prudent at the timing of the exit strategy. They said implementing it earlier than it should could choke recovery efforts, while keeping it for too long could lead to spiraling inflation and asset bubbles in the future.

In the case of the Philippines, officials agree that it was still too early to implement an exit strategy. However, they said the national government and the BSP were prepared to adjust policies once the global economy embarks on its way to recovery.

BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

CARLO Ditocto, Henry Frejas, AP Benazo and Sid Modesto

21ST PHILIPPINE AD CONGRESS

Skewing reality by the power of 4

By Chupee Medina
Contributor

THERE IS SOMETHING OF "RASHOMON" to how four weeks unfold. Four of the country's best creative directors pitted their talents to sell one story the way each one sees it—or attempts to drive home the point that reality after all, is often just one man's point of view.

The directors—Henry Frejas, Sid Modesto, Carlo Ditocto and AP Benazo—worked together and independently to come up with advertising teasers for the biggest regular gathering of the advertising industry, this time scheduled from Nov. 10 to 21 at the CAP Convention Center in Baguio City.

To facilitate the collaboration, four story board guides were presented and discussed with the directors during several meetings before each was sent off independently to execute on Blue Sky assignments.

At one of their meetings, as Service had originally asked: Guys, 42nd meets to pagsilyan, di ba? [That is not a competition, right?] After a second toe-tong of silence, the message was loud and clear: the "collaboration" was not going to be in any way friendly.

As with the celebrated 1950 Japanese film "Rashomon" directed by Akira Kurosawa, the four cuts promoting the forthcoming ad congress utilized one set of characters and props on a single stage in a story down the street where a second-rate magician goes through his second act, but also, seemingly finally unraveling his audacious solutions.

Frejas, known for such ads as Nescafé's "Home/Heaven," Nestle Cream's "The Offering," and McDonald's "Sinibong Gold,"

SEE PAGE B7 >>

CROWNASIA
A Vista Land Company

Hundreds of specially grown pine trees will give you a surprising welcome to PineCrest, the exclusive, low-rise development at the corner of Vanessa Batiata Drive and Aurora Boulevard. Consisting of three towers, PineCrest sits on almost 8,000 square meters of prime land, right beside the LRT 2 station.

Pine trees generously dotting the development will act as a buffer against the noise and racket of the city, at the same time creating crisp, fresh air you only find in high altitude settings. PineCrest's every detail has been carefully planned to create a luxurious and indulgent environment. Just as incredible you can leave the city but not be far away from the bright lights of Greenhills, New Manila, and Tomas Morato. You have conveniences as your immediate neighbors: schools, hospitals, entertainment centers.

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For more information call: 584-0656 • 0922-8882104 • 0928-5549547
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Goatherds thrive on milk of their stock

Text and photos by Karen Lapitan
Inquirer Southern Luzon

ALAMINOS, LAGUNA—BANKing on the jewelry of growing goats in the country, Rene Almeda, 54, and sons Art, 27, and Toti, 25, are making a bundle selling goat's milk to major retailers in Metro Manila.

Rene and his two sons operated Alminos Goat Farm (AFG) in 2004 initially to breed goats for commercial use.

Later on, the Almedas ventured into the production of goat milk, which they labeled Milk Star Fresh Goat's Milk.

ALAMINOS Goat Farm produces commercial pasteurized goat's milk now sold in a number of supermarkets in Metro Manila.

Farm handling

Rene used to operate a cattle feedlot farm. He and his sons thought of starting a goat farm, driven by the relative high demand for goats and its byproducts.

With P300,000 capital, the Almedas put up their goat farm, starting out with only 50 goats. Soon, AFG has 900 milking and breeding goats.

"There was a strong caution about this business. Some are discouraged by the bad smell often associated with goats. But it mainly depends on how one maintains them," says Art, who serves as the operations manager of the farm.

He said even the government runs skeptical of this kind of business.

But the Almedas proved them all wrong.

Milk production

Art's younger brother Toti is the brand manager of Milk Star Fresh Goat's Milk.

It was in 2007 when the Almedas thought of producing milk. They then added 100 more goats to their stock.

At present, Milk Star Goat's Milk is a supplier to more than 20 supermarkets, mostly in Metro Manila. They also have distributors in Laguna.

Art said that it was not easy at first to introduce goat's milk to the public.

"We are consistently informing the public about the benefits of goat's milk. It's very good for digestion," says Art.

When milk production started, most of the buyers were from the Chinese community who were already aware of the product's benefits.

Appreciation

"But the public has learned to appreciate goat's milk, [which] only takes 20 minutes to digest," Art claims.

JUST ALMEDA tends to his stock. Goat milk is perfect even for those who are lactose-intolerant.

Goat's milk is perfect for those who are lactose-intolerant.

Lacto-vegetarians (vegetarians who consume goat's milk because they say it is cleaner to consume milk than cow's milk).

Now, AFG produces 150 liters of goat's milk each day.

Still, Art admits that the misconception about goat's milk exists, so they continue informing people about the benefits of drinking goat's milk.

AFG imposes strict sanitary measures in producing the goat's milk before reaching the market. It has its own processing area for milk a few meters from the farm.

The farm is also the first commercial dairy goat farm to receive a license to operate issued by the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

Skewing reality by the power of 4

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narrates from the perspective of the magician.

Several visual elements...the use of flashback, slow motion and single focus on the volunteer as she goes up to the stage...are cleverly employed to create tension.

Think with their eyes

The story as told by the magician's assistant gets director Maldonado's full attention. As the anchor of all C2 Green Tea TV commercials and Coke's "Hotdog," the seasoned Maldonado challenges his viewers to think with their eyes, but not with their minds.

The third director is the team behind the famed Hey Eddie, McDonald's "Burger, Burger" and Smart Buddy "Double Decker" ads. Carla Bautista brings to us the view of the magician, the behind-the-scene assistant to the assistant who ensures the success of the magician's act. So, when tracking goes per script, and thumbs/thumbs and a nut and of the rope is captured so flirt, a message of mystery is once again created.

The last director, Bernard, brings viewers the ads from the volunteer's standpoint's claim to fame includes such TVCs as Smart's "Bond," Selecta Cold Series' "Marianas," and "Otis Milkstud/Water's Way."

Bernard managed to instill drama and conflict by enlarging on key emotional moments involving the date. In the end, he came up with a wholesome equal in the previous three versions.

Cloak and dagger

Directors did not get a chance to see the others' works until the day previous launch, a day before the nationwide break on television and radio. Such close-and-dagger approach, according to Margot Torres, JAZ chairperson and

ALL PHILIPPINE ADVERTISING CONGRESS

McDonald's vice powers for marketing, tasks for amazing behind-the-scenes accounts.

For one, the directors who always seemed as coolness of themselves during meetings with clients broke down hating their insecurities. Some even wanted to make last-minute changes, Torres said.

Tell all

All-run-and-with a cliff-hanger ensemble, "does an palagay na [what is your view]?"

Those who want to know what happened are invited to attend the ad congress' opening night when there is the promise to tell all.

Aside from catching the ads on television, those whose curiosity had been piqued may go visit www.ad-con.com.ph for a more leisurely view of the full-length versions.

Philippine Association of National Advertisers, which is hosting this year's biggest advertising event, has lined up some impressive speakers and resource persons, such as John Maddox, author of the bestseller "Megatrends," and Ed Cunningham, a well-known branding and marketing speaker.

Taking "Perspectives" as theme, the 21st Philippine Ad Congress will focus on coping with today's global economic downturn and finding creative solutions to rise above the situation.

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Eco-Friendly Features
Up to 40% Less Power Consumption using Inverter Technology vs. non-inverter models.*
New HFC Refrigerant (R410A) does not damage the ozone layer.
INVERTER Technology
envio
www.panasonic.com.ph

Planting the seeds of livelihood

MORE THAN VEGETABLES and fruits, the latest corporate social responsibility project of the Meralco Millenium Foundation Inc. (MMFI) is harnessing communities and community-spirit.

The goal of Bio Intensive Garden (Project BIG) is to help depressed communities fend for themselves by establishing backyard farms.

Jessie Sotto, a member of the project staff, said that while it could be done, "our main objective is not really a livelihood project where they can harvest products to sell."

"Project BIG aims to teach members of indigent communities how to grow vegetables and fruits that they can pick every time they need food to serve to their families."

Project BIG began only this year in one of the Meralco-supported communities.

The first BIG plot is located on a hilly part of Gawad Kalinga (GK) Barangay 10 filled—a former wasteland choked with weeds and garbage. After a month of preparation, the plot was ready to be tilled. Volunteers from the Kitchen Foundation helped teach families how to care for the communal farm.

"At the start, the families had no idea how to begin planting. We had to construct their garden rapidly. When the first batch of fertilizers was used up, we taught them how to make their own with chlorophyll. Kind like fish and rice water," Sotto said.

Today the BIG plot in GK Barangay is thick with string beans, kangkong, and vegetables. There many plots have been planted to okra, chili, tomato and bitter melon.

The garden continues to flourish, with Meralco hoping that other groups, such as the Department of Agriculture, would extend support by providing more seeds to the GK community.

'Wrap' artists ...

From page B1 »

Barreto said she started with a capital of P5,000. She couldn't imagine the business would grow that much when she started out.

Barreto takes pride in creating her "wrap artists," as she calls her employees.

"We allow [wrap artists] to experiment, but training is needed in this field. Gift wrapping is an art," said Barreto.

She still feels overwhelmed whenever she crosses a favorable reaction from a client, she added.

"You need to be observant. You write down clients really matter," Barreto said.

"You may be frugal in buying the gifts you would give your loved ones, but the presentation is very important," Barreto said.

The creators of the gift may feel more special if one's taken in the presentation of a gift, she added.

Even the "wrap artists" of franchised branches need to undergo training on the quality of service and be monitored.

Barreto said she is hands-on in running her business as she occasionally pays visits to each branch, not just to keep an eye on employees, but also to personally see clients patronizing the service.

Wrap it Up! frequently comes out with new designs and materials, offering customers a wider range of options...a luxury from the time I started out when the only option were PVC wrappers bought from Divisoria.

Given the novelty of the business, Wrap it Up! almost has no competitors, and this fact serves as a challenge for Barreto.

Wright would always come back to Wrap it Up! and look for something new.

"We need to think of more creative ideas each year, as well as introduce new raw materials," said Barreto.

She added that, although an economic crisis had put a damper on people's spending habits, the culture of giving still would not stop.

"Giving something is giving off yourself," she said.

Barreto considers such gifts to be important, both to the giver and receiver, but she takes pains in making sure that Wrap it Up! renders the kind of service clients will want to have.

In boot camp for teen traders, virtue of saving extolled

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—BABY BOOM brought on by a global downturn should not be cause for worry for aspiring entrepreneurs, if they start saving now for an even scrumptier tomorrow.

That was the golden rule pointed out by financial experts at the conclusion of this year's Go Negosyo, an annual youth entrepreneurial training at Teachers' Camp here.

According to financial advisor Ramon Tiongson, president of the Registered Financial Planners Institute of the Philippines, saving spells the difference between nonsense adults who spend 98 percent of their money to survive, and the masses once who spend only 5 percent of their profits and invest the rest for their retirement.

But teenagers who are concerned about their future enterprises, the world is not so bleak to the Philippines because even rural banks have P363 billion in combined assets that could be put to good use today said Greg de Guzman, president of the Bangko Dos-pastolan and three-director of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines.

He said rural banks are the most lucrative financial managers for provincial entrepreneurs, and young businessmen and women could find them better advisers "because they are in your neighborhood and they know what will work."

Many teenagers who graduated from this year's Go Negosyo Camps have been told to invest in "more creative businesses."

For example, a group of teenagers from the Marcelo Memorial High School in Tagaytay City said they would study how to shape a computer industry into where they could practice their ideas about food management.

Tiongson told them that financial management is the heart of a successful business, even for servicemen.

"There are only two ways of spending money: We spend on need or we spend on want. Knowing guesses or wants or Ariel making pamasko as need Opening an e-want gives more pleasure than spending on a need. That is what we have to guard against," Tiongson said.

He said adults of today are "instantly risk averse," but he reminded them that risk always has opportunity.

"Can you earn much without gambling so a source that has high risks? Yes. But would you invest in a business that provides high yield for low risk? That's what we all call a scam. Trade that," he said.

"If someone offers you to invest in a project that has high risk but low yield, there's only one word for you who succumb in the office. Stupid."

'Green' is the way to go

Front page 86.4

A SENSE OF CALM radiates from the Welcome Pavilion, allowing visitors to enjoy the site's resorts beauty.

of Amreyes Love.

That meant making tons of adjustments on roads and easements at the property to ensure no tree would be cut down and no habitat of endemic species would be disturbed, he said. If one road would be obstructed by a tree, then the road would have to be moved to give way to the tree, the architect added.

"We did the master plan for about a year, and I had to go there at least once a week to check the development and make adjustments," Uhan said.

Trips to the site at that time entailed a drive of up to eight hours through the old North Luzon Expressway, he said. Today, it's only about a two-and-a-half road trip via the refurbished NLEx and the newly constructed Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway.

The site was a sight to behold because of lush vegetation and diverse species of flora and fauna dotting views of the scenic and rolling hills, Uhan said.

Invaders-old hens and mango crows, as well as a wide variety of birds, could be found in the area and the site's bench is also a breeding ground for pawikans, he said, but turtles make their nest there and sadly, of about 40 eggs they lay about 1 percent make it back to the water, he explained.

But how do you keep the owner from decorating "paradise," as one property owner put it?

Uhan said Ayala Land Premier put safeguards in the contract to ensure that no outrightly house would be constructed in Amreya.

For instance, only earth tone colors are allowed, while owners are only limited to use 40 percent of their lots for their house, the architect said.

The developer also hired an in-house staff, trained to cure for the wildlife, there the barangay units that have jurisdiction over Amreya to take care of the common areas.

While green developments are springing left and right, Uhan said, the concepts of sustainable design has been deeply ingrained in the style of ALI's master planners.

"Even before the start of the word, Amreya was already doing it. We were aspiring for a green revolution," he said.

After all, why develop a piece of property that's already paradise?

"[Amreya Cove] is all about natural beauty, that's what we're looking at," Uhan said.

For the sensible tourist, a place to call it a night

THE PRICE... PTHS SET FOR FUSION...2

NOT THE ONLY advantage if you one at The Orange Place Hotel in Quezon City or San Juan.

What sensible tourists will also get here are comfortably furnished rooms with useful amenities, plus the strategic location of being near major transport terminals and business districts.

The Orange Place Hotel in West Rembo, Quezon City is near the transportation terminals located in Edsa. Also, The Orange Place Hotel on Santolan Road, San Juan, is very near the Greenhills Commercial Center.

But business travelers need not look for another venue if they need to hold important meetings, seminars, or workshops. The Orange Place in Santos offers function rooms which can accommodate a small group—perfect for brainstorming, reviews, or in-room gatherings.

The Orange Place Hotel provides ample parking space and 24-hour security, breakfast buffet, fully-air-conditioned rooms, cable TV, and restaurant service. Free Wi-Fi makes it convenient for guests who want to work using their laptops.

Using cultural values to reach consumers

By Minyong Ordoñez
Contributor

THE DAMULI AWARDS, now on its third successful year, was established to honor advertising success, which incorporated values to enhance brand benefits.

The award is unique because it gives tribute to the accomplishments of both client and ad agency not only for generating more sales but also for a remarkable partnership work style.

I was requested by organizers of Damuli to give a talk on the role of human and social values in advertising before an audience composed of heads of international agencies, marketing executives, media managers, members of the academe and communication arts graduates.

I have been a consistent incorporator of human values in many of our ad campaigns since the 1980s.

Filling a need

Values-oriented advertising are naturally inspired by Filipino culture to warm sense and family values in consumers.

In most value-added campaigns, a dimension of brand goodwill enhances brand benefits in fill the need for consumer relationship. That aspect of advertising fosters brand loyalty and continuous brand growth.

Values communications take the role of a necessity instead of an option. Be good reasons. The less paradigm of advertising is love and respect for the consumer, the neglect of which results in low esteem for the advertising profession.

"It's only advertising," says Lola Lay, or "don't believe everything you see in advertising," says Ming Leon, my father-in-laws.

The most difficult customer to handle came from the British television host Jeremy Torpedo who said, "advertising makes people buy things they don't really need."

Despite in advertising more periodically remains the most powerful of their craft. They must not lose sight that their branch of communication conveys the ephemeral and inherent aspects to the viewing public. The ephemeral deals with changes, fixations and aspirations. Inherent touches on truth, permanence, and transcendence.

Cultural

The culture of advertising and the culture of the consumer differ in size and orientation. Advertising is fundamentally a business of creating changes, crafting and producing sales materials.

Values are cultural. It is an iconic that values are the most natural element for much of persuasive communication.

The power of value has to its ability to move attention, empathize with sentiments and connect the sender and receiver of messages, both of whom are members of the same tribe. Values when communicated are timeless and visceral.

Trend setters, freedom lovers, and anti-establishment rebels may traditional and orthodox practices are anachronistic in the day and age.

Let's think them out. Personal now and character formation in raising children. Generosity and helpfulness within the family. Respect and obedience to parents' parents and elders. Good manners and right conduct in the workplace and social settings.

We as in live schemes, lovable, and happy lives, there's absolutely no tenderness are shallow in any of the above.

Inevitable

It's inevitable that most added values in advertising are Filipino family values.

Our best behavior and cultural virtues inside the family circle and its extension spirit out toward the hospitality of visitors. It is in our houses that values and virtues are learned, nourished, practiced, and passed on from generation to generation.

By extendence, it is also in the home where moral beauty is nurtured, sustained, and passed on from one generation to another.

Sibayang Ordoñez is consultant chair of Publicis Manila and a freelance journalist. He is a member of the Manila Overseas Press Club. Email: figuredone@gmail.com.]

Congratulations to the Winners of the Second Quarterly Draw

Held August 7, 2009 at the LBC Development Bank Makati Head Office

PRIZE - ULTIMA ACCOUNT	WINNER	ADDRESS
GROUP 1: Northern Luzon (Regions I (Ilocos), II (Cagayan), III (Central Luzon), CAR (Cordillera Region))		
1st Prize: P 150,000	Michael Martin Carpio Bacosa	2 del Pilar St., Brgy. 3, Vigan City
2nd Prize: P 75,000	Benjamin Cuesta Mirmirbua	61 2nd Road, Valenzuela St., Baguio City
3rd Prize: P 50,000	Elisa Dy Co	Regal Subd., Zamora St., Dagupan City
GROUP 2: Metro Manila (Metro Manila (National Capital Region))		
1st Prize: P 150,000	Lucille Zamudio Villa	3 Alley 14, Project 6, Quezon City
2nd Prize: P 75,000	Relatouch Ventures, Inc.	c/o G. Aldo Zapata Beauty Spa, Gate Kanda, Pa San Pao Resort City
3rd Prize: P 50,000	The Philand Company, Inc.	3985 Fermina St., Poblacion, Makati City
GROUP 3: Central and Southern Luzon (Regions IV-A (Calabarzon), IV-B (Mimaropa), V (Bicol), VI (Western Visayas))		
1st Prize: P 150,000	Victoria Pacifique Posadas	7022 G Jasmin St., Sta. Rita, Olongapo City
2nd Prize: P 75,000	Teresita Rasova Yap	2430 Rizal Avenue, E.B.E., Olongapo City
3rd Prize: P 50,000	Lourdes Cruz Marino	23 Gordon St., New Banicain, Olongapo City
GROUP 4: Visayas and Mindanao (Regions VII (Central Visayas), VIII (Eastern Visayas), IX (Western Mindanao), X (Northern Mindanao), XI (Southern Mindanao), XII (Central Mindanao), ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao), CARAGA)		
1st Prize: P 150,000	Shalin Dasasa-o	8011 Lewis St., Juna Subd., Matina, Davao City
2nd Prize: P 75,000	Rosilyn Fredman Apodaca	Nagyunan, Habay, Aklan
3rd Prize: P 50,000	Paul Christopher Marquerida Lim	Lot 5 Blk. 28 NHA Mandaluyan, Iloilo City

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BUSINESS Friday

Water system brings joy to Christmas town

By Rita Perdin
ADB National Officer
Contributor

With a little help, Naawan folk get the service they deserve

NAAWAN, MISAMIS ORIENTAL—This fourth class municipality just one hour out of Cagayan de Oro City was unheard of before. It landed on the front pages of newspapers by being the "Christmas capital of Region/Barug Pedro (2007)" grand winner.

Bowing major cities and towns nationwide, Naawan won the Christmas landmark competition with its colorful "Bisik ng Pilosopiko: Building Peace with People" entry.

But behind its lovable costume, it lurked a need for basic services, such as potable water.

In 2003, its water system only served 517 households. The town availed of a loan to improve sanitation and expand its level 3 potable water supply system to reach more households and consumers.

Out with the old

The improvement and expansion of the water system covered three coastal communities, the poblacion and the towns of Manticao and Lugait.

Old pipelines were replaced with new ones, and a new 220-cubic meter capacity reservoir was put up.

A 10-horsepower pump, one of two to be found at the time, was replaced with a more powerful 25-horsepower pump to boost capacity and cater to the 60 cubic meters per hour requirement of a newly established copper industrial plant.

Dramatic increase

Total cost of the project was P15.6 million, of which, about P9.2 million was financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through its Mindanao Basic Urban Services Project (MBUSP) project being implemented by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in partnership with the Nordic Development Fund and the Land Bank of the Philippines.

With the expansion, 1,291 households began to benefit from the water system, including the 300 households in neighboring municipalities.

Average monthly income also increased dramatically from P300,000 to P1 million on its initial operation. It even reached P2.7 million as of mid-2008.

This 700-percent increase in five years is already half of the municipality's entire revenue collection.

Apart from Naawan, other cities and towns in Mindanao have benefited from MBUSP subprojects.

Jalaos Bowing

New public markets have sprouted in Oroquita City; R. T. Lim Zamboanga Sibugay; Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur; Alicia in Zamboanga Sibugay; Dato Odin Sinsuat and Buluan towns in Maguindanao; and Mati, Davao Oriental.

Gymnasiums were built in San Isidro, Surigao del Norte; Bilwan, Zamboanga del Norte; and Pilar, Surigao del Norte.

Transport terminals were also established in Pandino City; Isulan, Sultan Kudarat; and in Bislapawan City.

Kidandogan, Lanao del Norte has a new auditorium, while an exhibition center in Sicogon, Zamboanga del Norte was built.

Other water supply systems were built in Impasugong, Bukidnon; Alamada, North Cotabato; and Tago, Surigao del Sur.

President Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurated some of the subprojects like Iligan's Kapatagan municipal hall in Lanao del Norte in 2006 and the Oroquita City Public Mall in 2009.

With water more abundant, Naawanons promise to keep their coastline jalaos flowing.

By Mike Hawkins

HOW PROFITABLE ARE GREEN HOMEimprovements in the Philippines?

If sales at Ainsleys Cove are any indication, then green is the way to go.

Sales have been brisk despite a bleak real estate climate caused by the worldwide economic downturn. There has also been a couple of pats on the back from critics as well.

The prime seaside leisure development of Ayala Land Premier in Morong, Bataan was declared a finalist in the Green/Sustainable Project category of the annual Hospitality Design Awards—the only Asian development to win in this year's edition.

The Morong development placed behind this year's category topnotcher—Cavallo Point, the Lodge at the Golden Gate in Sausalito, California. The winning venture is owned by Equity Community Builders. The Ajax Group and Pauquet Rosario.

"The fact that we continue to invest in this kind of development is an indication of the project's profitability," ALP president Jeremiah Aguino told reporters at the launch of Ainsleys Cove's Phase 2 last week.

"It's a sure feeling for us that it's gaining acceptance," Aquino said of Ainsleys Cove.

Senior architect Murray Blum, part of the team that conceptualized the master plan of the 229-hectare development, said the group's primary aim was to keep the natural features of the property intact while putting together the blueprint.

GREEN ILL 1

THE PINELY detailed bedstridge reflects the workmanship of local craftsmen.

THE LANTERN-LIKE quality of the Beach Chair mirror provides a soft glow at dusk.

'Wrap' artists take gift-giving to new levels

Text and photos
by Karen Lapitan
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CALAMBA CITY—IZONE: A borrowed table from her sister and a few gift wrappers, an entrepreneurial bent started a trade based on Filipinos' love of giving and receiving gifts.

Chippi Barrera, 46, began mounting her gift-wrapping business, Wrap it Up!, in November 2000, heeding the demand of many buyers in a small mall in Calamba City.

WRAP it Up! offers creative gift-wrapping ideas.

It was Christmas, and Barrera's business was supposed to be just that season. In fact, she assumed a constant for only three months.

"I was only wrong, there were no plans of expanding. [The business] during that time," said Barrera, who welcomed that she had no inclination to resist the act of gift wrapping but she felt customers needed this kind of service.

Wrap it Up! started rendering service mostly to buyers in a nearby appliance center within the mall.

But she demand that came was more than she was expected.

Wrap it Up! now has 11 branches, nine of which are franchised. All of these are located in malls in Laguna and Metro Manila.

WRAP ILL 1

(ABOVE) Quark Henares, Alice Bacani, Leo Ledesma, Mike Ponsaran and James Alkuin (Below) the art and design school's façade.

Learning the money side of one's craft

By Bernadette M. del Rosario

THERE'S A SCHOOL THAT may put an end to the starving artist routine.

For the operators of The One School, it's not enough that students get to know how to use their talents in film, graphic arts and fashion. It's also important for them to learn the business side of their craft so they can actually make a living out of it once they start building their own careers.

The One School is an art and design establishment with focus on entrepreneurship.

"Our school acts as an agent of change that helps students find their 'voices,'" said Leo Ledesma, the school owner and one of the co-founders. "Once they have found their way and what they want to become, then we'll help them get on where they want to go."

Ledesma said students who prefer non-traditional way of learning should feel right at home in The One School.

Progressive school

"As a progressive school, we recognize alternative ways of education," said Ledesma, an entrepreneur himself engaged in buying and selling vintage motorcycles. "In The One School, we offer personalized instruction as the students' learning experience becomes painless and pleasurable."

In short, he said, it's "college personalized."

Opened in 2007, The One School is designed to be a small school, with only 300 students enrolled in each of its campuses on Pasco de Roxas and Zaragoza Street in Makati City. On average, there are 15 to 20 students per class.

According to Ledesma, he owns up with the idea of meeting up a rather uncommon (small college when he noticed that most schools in the country touch using the same, traditional methods.

When finalizing the concept for the school, Ledesma said he didn't want it to be "a poor copy of Ateneo."

Not about memorization

Instead, he wanted to attract his own breed of students, to ensure his own market. He said, "Our school is not for everybody. Traditional students should, by all means, go to a traditional school."

Ledesma said The One School is all about helping the students' learners confident individuals when they graduate. "We'd like to impart to the students how the learning so they may pursue their studies because they want to, not because they need to."

That's not to say that getting a Degree from The One School won't take any effort. "Some lessons may be difficult, but at least we're not all about memorization," said Ledesma, who has a Masters degree in engineering at the Stanford University.

The One School offers two-year learning courses in multimedia arts and Film, run by the School of Multimedia, Film and Technology (SOMFT); Entrepreneurship, run by the School of Entrepreneurship (SOE); and Fashion Design and Merchandising, run by the School of Fashion and the Arts (SOFA).

Different strokes

Another good thing with enrolling at The One School, said Nick Bacani, is that the instructors and professors are actually practitioners of their own crafts. These are the students who had made names for themselves and are established personalities in their own industries.

"Because we are practitioners, what we impart to our students are based from experience," said James Alvin Yeed getting acquainted accurately with a network of people in the business...that would be us—is very important."

Success has neither a formula, ludmina said. But with The One School's "different strokes for different folks" approach to learning, giving their learners as much room.

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Contributing Editors Jarod Eppersun, Apples Alberto Sadhwani, Rio Francisco Prieto

Manila goes gaga over Lady Gaga

Has anyone ever seen a piano played with both hands and feet?

ARANETA COLISEUM was packed with an audience that delivered almost as much to-do-vvorrr as Lady Gaga did.

The screams were mounting as they pierced through the music, pausing in the right time to listen to Gaga's rousing voice.

Boy, did she put up a show—all costume changes, dance moves, that bike, a ballet-filled bathroom piece and hot male dancers!

She started the show with "Paparazzi" and everybody in the stadium sang their hearts out. "I'm your biggest fan I'll follow you until you love me, pa-pa-paparazzi."

Then, she literally came out of the box to deliver the rest of her songs, and not once did she let us down.

Lady Gaga, known for her provocative stunts that surprise even more if pianos played with both hands and feet?), nevertheless did not disappoint with what sounded like soloist screams.

While the little space she had, she performed her up-tempo dance moves dressed in '70s pop glam outfits and sig-

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Manila goes gaga over Lady Gaga

HI FULL "Gaga" mode, Ruffa Gutierrez

From page H1

nesian tanga. The new Pop Princess was slim-sexy in her nude latex bikini, while showcasing the audience with her powerful pipes.

She rendered an acoustic "Paker Face" wearing a showstopping Hanwei Chaloyan bubble dress, before ending the show with the original version of the chart-topper.

Lady Gaga couldn't help expressing over and over how much she loved Manila, and said she cried six times throughout the first few songs because of the audience reception.

It didn't look like she wanted to leave (not with the chair). Still, she left us with a "See you next time, Manila!" Which is more than enough to keep us counting for more.

In honor of Lady Gaga, I brought Disco Sticks (available at http://runrun.multiply.com) to share with Gaga fans during the show. Here we go...

"Let's have some fun, this beat is sick

I wanna take a ride on your disco stick

Don't think me much, just hear that kick

I wanna take a ride on your disco stick..."

E-mail the author at jfashion @inquirer.com.ph

MORE photos on page C3

LADY Gaga played the piano with both hands and feet!

BARBIES Patricia and MC Concepcion

VIBA Mercado channels Lady Gaga.

TESSA Villoso and daughter Annika

"PROJECT Runway's" Teresa Herrera

JM Rodrigues

RAJO Laurel and Bobby Carmona

ANGEL Locsin

CHYPPINA Ortaleza

CELINE Lopez

MAURICE Arnaiz and Vicky Zobel

MELISSA Rivas

QUARK Henares and sister Cricelda

Short cuts

By Jenni Eppacron

REMEMBER THE HEMLINE Theory that says hemlines have strong correlation to the economy? Such theory, which goes as far back to the 1920s, had stock brokers and financial analysts keeping an eye on the fashion runways.

High hemlines forecasted good times, while lower hemlines suggested gloomy economic times ahead. But that was skirting the issue, so to speak—a capricious theory that gave women's fashion yet another dimension.

These days, however, is a men's hemline that's on the fashion radar, and perhaps on a few front-fly on investors' portfolios.

Hemlines on men's pants are going up a few inches, similar to women's super pants. But what does it mean? Recession cutbacks? Businesses folding up? Certainly, it's more of a reaction than a prognostication.

No longer reserved for the beachside, as manifested in Thai fisherman pants (the better to separate the bronzed bootie) subtle (or heightened "beach babe" effect), the cropped pant look has now ventured into preppie private school and conference room territory. Ironically, the poor boy look incorporates rich fabrics and formal cuts.

Interesting combinations

The fall 2009 shows of Alexander McQueen and Neil Barrett and Iceberg's Spring 2010 collection had their male models striding down the runway in interesting combination of cropped trousers, cut-out tees and jackets.

Iceberg expressed denim ease with ensembles featuring endless variations on a theme: cotton blazers and cropped pants.

I find Alessandro Dell'Acqua's interpretation of "bourgeois revolution" noteworthy, as he combined "bourgeois" trousers like tuxed and herringbone with details like flesh tones peeking out of cuffs and hems. His version of the cropped trousers exposed ankles that looked how bus seats actually covered in flesh-colored socks.

Neil Barrett got his freaky on with his Abstract Eccentric theme. In his show, he dressed-up the wardrobe of an English country gentleman and incorporated a few visual illusions. So nothing was quite what it seemed.

Case in point, the leggings that peeped out from folded pants were actually knit sweaters. And a polo shirt was stitched inside another jacket to create a two-for-one effect.

It may take a while before flesh-toned socks and leggings start peeking out of cropped hemlines in the men's fashion mainstream, but watch out for trousers getting the up-fold. Perhaps in the end, its subliminal message says, "Boys, it's down to get dirty."

E-mail the author at jfashion @inquirer.com.ph

Naughty call

MEN'S Springfield: stripe sweater, gray pants, white jacket/shirt, Zara

Clean lines

WHITE pants, Springfield; white coat, Banana Republic; white patent shoes, Zara

Bel khakis!

YELLOW sweater, black bag, Banana Republic; checkered scarf, khaki belt, khaki cropped pants, Springfield; brown suede shoes, Zara

All prepped up

GRAY cap, Springfield; gray cropped pants, blue-gray-white print sweater, black bag, Banana Republic; gray suede shoes, Zara

LADY Gaga in Hanson Chalayan bubble dress

CHALAYAN bubble dress on the runway

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The good news, according to Rico Hizon—from art, values to shoes

BROADCAST JOURNALIST RICO HIZON and wife Melanie Syquia, an art events organizer and patron, are the picture of a modern marriage.

Rico is the only Filipino student in BBC World News, Hellenistic pronoun works of Filipino artists in Singapore and Indonesia by remaining oddities.

They have a five-year-old son, Migs.

Living and breathing news for almost two decades now—before BBC, he was with CNBC Asia and GMA 7—Rico has always seemed to be a broadcast journalist.

"In grade school, 10 join public speaking and oratorical competitions. I was also active in debate and forensics club in high school. I also enjoyed watching my favorite news anchors: Noli Lapitan, Doug Pinto, Jessi Mae Weber, Boo Vibar, Pierre Gomez, and reporters Alex Tinsay and Jimmy Gil," he recalls.

Today, Rico is on top of his game, having interviewed top newsmakers—among them, the richest man in the world Bill Gates, Warren Buffet, Richard Branson; heads of states Gloria Arroyo, Fidel Ramos, Joseph Estrada, Presidente Susapaal-Aquino, Indonesia's ex-chancellorman Wahid and Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, former Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohammad, 14th Chief Executive Donald Tsang, Czech Republic President Vaclav Klaus, European Union President José Manuel Barroso; celeb athletes Gabe Bryant, Andre Agassi, Gabriela Sabatini, Grant Hill and David Robinson).

But whatever he may be, or however important the global issues he reports on, Rico is united to what is happening to the Philippines.

He has an advocacy to highlight what's good and beautiful in the Filipino in the website Good News Filipinas (https://GoodNewsFilipinas.com). It focuses on positive action, triumphs and inspirational stories of Pinoys all over the world, averaging 80,000 hits a day, with visitors from over 100 countries, the site aims to instill pride in being Filipinos.

"So I've based in Singapore and working for a multinational media outfit, people would ask me what's good about the Philippines. I'd often launch into a litany of what makes this country great. But I realized that what people see is great. TV and home on the radio are one what the Philippines really has to offer, and I wanted a venue to celebrate our country and our people, and let the world know about it," Rico explains.

Melanie, whom Rico met on a blind date set up by a friend, shares her husband's advocacy, acting as CEO and operations director of GoodNewsFilipinas.com.

But the couple's advocacy does not stop with GNF: they also promote Filipino art in Singapore through Melanie's art venture, Art General Asia.

ABOVE: Rico and his wife, Melanie Syquia

"Collecting Filipino art is a hobby. We merged our personal collections when we got married, and they include works of BenCab, Ang Kiukok, José Joya, Arturo Luz, Cesar Legaspi, Isabel Rodriguez. We had leading contemporary artist José Santos III, Elmer Borlongan, Mark Justiniani, Pilomar Jurandes, Pilo Tuason, Joy Mallari, Manuel Antonio Wilfredo Morden," explains Rico. "Through Art General Asia, we've featured Filipino artists in international exhibits in Singapore and Indonesia."

The lifetime double between Manila and Singapore. Their household remains very Filipino. The couple enjoys Filipino meals. Nosy moves on DVD, and keeping up with Pinoy showbiz news and teleseryes.

"While we are based abroad, we miss home often, sometimes even almost every month. There is nothing like the vibrant atmosphere of the Philippines," Rico quips.

They also try to make sure their bonakeos in their son the very same Filipino values they grew up with.

"We consciously raise our son in a Filipino environment. He knows how to show respect to elders—with the mano and by addressing them with terms of respect. This is very important to us," Melanie adds.

Comfort above style

While Rico wears on TV suits and ties from Hermes, Dolce Gabbana, Salvatore Ferragamo, Paul Smith and Hugo Boss, off-cam he likes plaid shirts, jeans, khakis and comfy shoes.

He puts comfort above style when it comes to shoes.

"Whether for work or play, I am very conscientious with shoes. My shoes are often black, maroon or brown, and I prefer a cap-toe styles. Mel urges me to be more adventurous in the shoe store. But they must be comfy. It's good I have a wardrobe consultant at work, and a wife who helps me shop," says Rico, who wears ASICS at the Air Technology Cole Haan line incorporated in the Nike Zoom Flyarite and the Air Infinity Sports Meridian.

Docu on Valentino to be shown in Manila, Davao, Cebu

CEE LIFESTYLE AND Samsung present "Valentino: The Last Emperor" on Aug. 20 in Manila, Aug. 23 in Davao, and Aug. 27 in Cebu. The documentary film features the life and career of Fosco Valentino and his relationship with Giancarlo Giammetti, his business and life partner of 50 years.

VALENTINO

Rags2Riches sale

Isko Conference Rooms is reaching out to the workers of Payatas and their families through a partnership with Rags2Riches (R2R), a social business enterprise that empowers people to promote fair trade and recycling. Fashionable bags, purses, laptop sleeves, vanity sets and more holders are on sale at the Isko Cafe Jeepney. Marketed under the R2R label, these are made by workers from community gathered from garment factories around the capital. Having designs by fashion leaders such as Paolo Lucini. Sales proceeds are channeled to cooperatives to fund community projects and youth education in Payatas.

'Threepenny Opera' opens Aug. 14

Playwright and director Krista Zuaco reunites Barbie Forteza and Karl Medina in "The Threepenny Opera" by his own theater company, the World Theater Project, on Aug. 14, 15 and 16, at the Peta Theater Center. This salon on the opera is based on John Gay's "The Beggars' Opera."

For tickets and other info, visit http://worldtheatreproject.multiply.com; tel. 7229677 (Bellamy) or text 0917-822-8780.

Ballet Philippines' 'Masterworks'

In celebration of Ballet Philippines' 40th year, the company opens "Masterworks," a showcase presenting significant works that have established Ballet Philippines as the flagship company in ballet and contemporary dance. Ballet Philippines will be accompanied live by the Manila Symphony Orchestra.

For its musical premier in the Philippines, "Tschaikovsky" will be performed with the special participation of the 20th Concert Class as Anak De Sonambula, Christian Fellowship Chancel Choir with soloists Janet Sabas Macaraig, Filipinized Russian and Joannelle Bilag.

'Masterworks' will be staged at CCP Main Theater on Aug. 14, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Aug. 15, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Aug. 16, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

For tickets, call 832-1125 local 1601 or 09-1222-1, 83 SM Markets. Former collaborators and the press are invited to the "Masterworks" opening night on Aug. 14, 8 p.m., and are requested to call Ballet Philippines for their complimentary tickets (limited tickets available).

30th-anniversary pendant

Jewelmar celebrates its 30th anniversary with the release of the limited-edition 30th Pearl Anniversary pendant. This special item features a lustrous Palawan South Sea pearl set in 18-karat yellow gold. Three diamonds sparkle on the gold pin, symbolizing Jewelmar's three decades of being the leading producer of natural-colored, golden Palawan South Sea pearls and one-of-a-kind South Sea pearl jewelry. For the past 30 years, Jewelmar has produced the finest South Sea pearls.

From now until Sept. 30, clients can enjoy special prices when purchasing the limited-edition piece from Jewelmar showrooms nationwide.

Cinderella sale

Cinderella offers 50 percent off on its selected merchandise until Aug. 16. In its Pick a Prize promo, win gift certificates from David's Salon, Rico Salon and The Jan Institute.

2 companies promote beauty and wellness

SIERRA MADRE HEALTH Capsule recently sealed its partnership with Ever Bilena Direct Sales to distribute their products nationwide.

Ever Bilena are the full potential of Sierra Madre Health Capsules and decided to expand its product line to food supplements. With a common vision, both companies believe beauty and health are always the vital requirements for better living.

Sierra Madre Health Capsule is an all-natural food supplement that has no artificial additives or chemical neutralizers. The health capsule neutralizes toxins and acids in the body, replenishes natural ions and helps in the prevention of lifestyle-related diseases such as diabetes, asthma, kidney ailments, arthritis. It helps cleanse the body to maintain a healthy fluid balance. Any person suffering from ailments and diseases will have their body cleansed and detoxified. Its right mineral and minerals—calcium, potassium, magnesium, sodium, zinc, copper, iron and selenium—are found in the Sierra Madre Mountains, that's the brand has been named Sierra Madre.

BOY Abunda

Sierra Madre Health Capsule promotes healthy living for workaholic individuals like Kris Aquino and Boy Abunda. These two celebrity endorsers are living believers of the positive acid neutralizer. As TV hosts, their work requires them to be keen and alert all the time. They have been taking the capsule for several years now. It makes them feel good, healthy and energized all the time.

For 26 years, Ever Bilena believes that to be beautiful is not just about looking attractive but being healthy inside as well.

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Cory's death and funeral didn't dampen malling

By Marge C. Enriquez
Contributor

THE LOCAL RETAIL SCENE IS as vibrant as ever, bucking worldwide recession trend. The malls are experiencing growth in sales and human traffic, their expansion continues. Even as the country mourned the death of former President Corazon Aquino, business, in general, was stable.

Malls close to overpopulated towns taken by the funeral cortege suffered a mere slowdown for a few hours but business boomed back immediately.

Milagros Ocson, vice president for marketing and communications, says SM malls have been enjoying double-digit sales growth this year. She attributes this to such [illegible] as Sky Gardens in North Edsa and The Annex in Megamall.

Predictably, payday weekends are busy days to mall. When SM North Edsa held a weekend sale July 31-Aug. 2, rehash coincided with the late president's death and funeral, the mall still posted double-digit sales growth.

Although business was relatively quiet at the Mall of Asia (Roxas Boulevard was clogged during the funeral procession as the remains) last Aug. 5, the setback was only temporary.

Significant growth

Despite the still competition posed by other developments, the Ayala Malls have been reporting a significant growth in human traffic and sales performance this year. Mall activities and services have been attracting patronage.

Rowena Tantoban, vice president and

CONTINUED ON D2

THE TREATMENT promises smooth, frizz-free, tangle-free locks.

Permanent blowdry is the next big thing in hair

Say goodbye to 'walis tingting' look

By Mel Cuenca
Contributor

ARE YOU ONE OF MANY Filipinas with frizzy unruly hair? If your hair has seen better days and you are desperately looking for a treatment that will bring back strength and shine into your hair, the Permanent Blowdry is exactly what you need.

The latest hair straightening system since rebonding, the treatment got its name from Brazil (It's called Brazilian Keratin Treatment or BKT in the US), where it is usually called curves progressive (progressive blowdry).

Different from rebonding

Technically, the Permanent Blowdry is neither a relaxing nor straightening treatment, both of which use chemicals to restructure hair. Japanese straightening or rebonding has fallen out of favor with some users not only because it leads to unwanted "walis tingting" look, but users also experience extensive damage, particularly when the process is repeated.

Permanent blowdry uses keratin, a type of protein akin to a component of human

FOREGROUND D2

GARFIELD

A. LIPIN

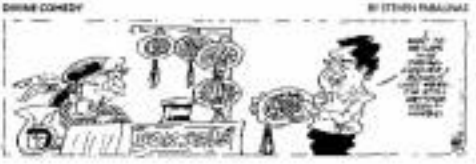
FUSAO BABOY

DICK TRACY

LOVEHUNGRY

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY



BABY BLUES

TULDOK

BEN

ATOMO AND WEBBY

BIKO MACHINE

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS CHUA

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be careful that you don't overdo things when you're partying today. It's easy to do! You're in a flirtatious, playful mood, and want to have a good time; however, your judgment might be a bit off.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Some family and domestic matters are your primary concern today. Just make sure you don't provoke more than you can deflect to family member, Tantalizer you'll be tempted to do this.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're in a position to provide valuable input on your communication options with others today. Your perceptions are generally positive and optimistic. Maybe too optimistic?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You connect with your moods more today. It would be a good day for shopping, you might be tempted to splurge. You don't want to regret something later. Keep an eye on your bank book!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're in a happy, upbeat mood today. You're energetic and ready to greet the world. (You tend to wear on definitely will about you today.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You feel quite driven, but toward others today. In fact, you're more than willing to put the welfare and interests of others before your own. This is commendable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): A friend might annoy you a bit today. Maybe you're short on something to do, or maybe you're in a bad mood. Whatever the case, you might do the same to someone else! It's very tempting to underwater drama and stress up this fascinating.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're in a position to offer promises or authority figures. Success, popularity, recognition and other good things are coming your way. Be sure to appreciate what you have!

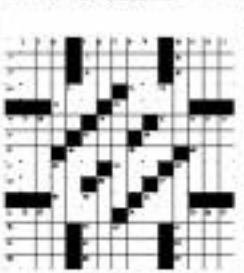
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Travel plans and matters of education do well with higher education look exciting and promising. Use today's energy to set some possibilities and be the center of your.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't give away the farm today. You might be tempted to do so in your generosity or showing something, especially sharing something. You're not in the mood for petty.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Someone might promise to do something for you today, or at least, you think that is actually more than the or else can do today. And possibly, you're promising somebody else this kind of thing. Be aware others.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel especially confident about your appearance today. Maybe it's the new you or something good about your health. Just don't overdo anything.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Wayne Gould

1								
		2			7		9	
	5	7	8		3		1	
		8			6		3	
				7				
	4		2			1		
	8		4		5	3	6	
	3		9			4		
								5

Solve this Level: ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

9	1	8	2	3	7	5	6	4
5	2	7	4	6	1	3	9	8
3	6	4	5	8	9	7	2	1
6	7	3	9	1	8	2	4	5
1	5	2	3	4	6	8	7	9
8	4	9	7	5	2	1	3	6
4	8	6	1	2	3	9	5	7
2	9	5	8	7	4	6	1	3
7	3	1	6	9	5	4	8	2

138 Designers' Blvd.

EASTWOOD mall's towering interiors with skylights and office buildings.

World-class finds at new high-end mall

By Jules Ramirez
Contributor

EASTWOOD Mall's imposing interiors with skylight

Andrew Tan did in Libis what the Ayalas did in Makati and the Ansonias in Cubao, transforming something barren into an upscale real estate enclave. From a single office building for IBM and two residential condos called Olympic Heights and Lafayette, the total number of edifices inside Eastwood City quadrupled throughout the years, resulting in a vibrant, self-sustaining community.

Last last year, Eastwood Mall became the latest addition to the growing retail business in the area, a high-end retail hub that sits in the middle of five-star Megaworld developments.

One gets a feeling it is a smaller version of Singapore's Orchard Road, with pocket parks amidst the concrete jungle. Eastwood Mall's interiors are comparable to Bangkok's Siam Center or Ginza in Tokyo. Popular brands, both local and international, as well as eating establishments line the 36-meter wide mall. Even the discount store Dillon Warehouse has opened a branch inside Eastwood Mall just to service the demands of companies in the area for cheap office supplies.

For side losers like me, the elevators of crowded shopping are reduced prices has just opened in the ground floor of the mall. 138 Designers' Blvd. is a Stores Specialists outlet that carries all its brands such as Ted's, Gucci, Prada, Alfred Dunhill, Hugo Boss, Kate Spade, SIOO, Bally and much more under one roof.

Imagine a store full of last season's must-have at affordable prices, like this silver-green Alfred Dunhill small weekender bag with Hermes lock that I was able to grab.

Some of the stores in Eastwood Mall are still preparing to open, but the cineplex at the ground level are already operational. A huge dome serves as the mall's main skylight during daytime—its one other to be green and reduce energy consumption.

I can't wait for this mall to be in full bloom, especially with the opening of Robinsons Hotel at the upper floors of the mall. Now I don't have to fly to Singapore via disconnected airline tickets and frequent Raffles City or Pacific Place just to experience world-class shopping. All I have to do is drive to Eastwood Mall.

USING a 450-degree flat iron, the stylist seals the hot-rain formula onto the outer layer of the cuticle, thus trapping moisture, hydrating the hair and adding lots of shine.

Permanent blowdry is the next big thing in hair

From page D1

hair. The formula coats the hair cuticle and repairs damaged strands, reconditioning the hair and preventing frizz. Hair gradually returns to its original state without the awkward growing-out stage inherent in rebonding.

However, the advantage becomes its disadvantage: results can last from six weeks to a few months, depending upon how frequently the hair is washed.

The multi-step treatment takes around three hours, and costs around P7,000 at Basement Salon, depending on the length of hair. A stylist applies a solution made with active formula on several sections of the hair, and using a 450-degree flat iron, the stylist seals the formula onto the outer layer of the cuticle.

The formula adheres to the cuticle's inherently rough edges. Then, it is said, it traps moisture, hydrating the hair, and adds lots of shine.

What's also unique about the treatment is that the hair can be shaped according to the client's specifications. "You can add a little volume, or give the hair a slight wave," says Marchiel Spiering of Basement Salon. This hair treatment is recommended for all types of chemically treated hair, whether it's bleached, highlighted, colored, permed, relaxed or straightened.

"It's great for getting rid of curly, frizzy and damaged hair," adds Spiering.

Some even opt for the treatment to simplify their beauty routines. "For people who can't stand blowdrying at home or go for regular blowdrying sessions at the salon, a treatment like this is a time-saver," says a client.

However, the treatment comes with a caveat—most formulas used for BHT is said to contain formaldehyde, a known carcinogen that can irritate the eyes and lungs if the fumes are inhaled.

While Spiering guarantees that Basement Salon's formula is formaldehyde-free, they're still taking necessary precaution—installing a special area and exhaust system specifically for BHT, and having technicians and clients wear protective gear during treatment.

Basement Salon is at 2/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City, and at Greenbelt Building, Ayala Ctr, Makati. For inquiries, call 8996668 or 6782222.

Cory's death and funeral . . .

ROWENA Tomlinson, vice president and chief operating officer of Ayala Malls

From page D1

chief operating officer of Ayala Malls, reports that in the week of Aug. 3, all mall sales and human traffic remained constant. Fast-foods and restaurants were busy, as were auction stores and cinemas.

Asked if business at Glorietta and Greenbelt were hindered by the procession along Ayala Avenue last Aug. 5 or by any political rally, she replies,

"We are hardly affected. Our mall patrons within the Makati CBD (Central Business District) still go to Glorietta and Greenbelt for their shopping, dining and entertainment activities."

She adds that as tribute to Aquino, a prayer corner was set up at Greenbelt for mall patrons.

Rossana Villegas, corporate public relations manager for Robinsons Land, is also optimistic.

"Retail has been good. Growth isn't limited to malls. We've opened in Davao, Tacloban and soon in General Santos. There's room for a lot of shopping in this country."

Robinsons' malls are holding the annual August sale. Although Robinsons Place reported a significant drop in business last Aug. 5 due to congested streets, sales were buoyant by Friday, Aug. 7.

"Robinsons Galleria and Ortigas were not affected that day. The pedestrian traffic was the same," she says. However, the Ermita Mall (Robinsons) bought from the Cojuangcos) was quiet.

Tanseliao points out that in times of uncertainty, shoppers still limit their spending to the basics.

On the whole, malls are part of the Filipino culture. Cultural icon Cecile Guidote-Alvarez once wrote that malls have replaced the town plaza of the past.

"Filipinos will find ways to make themselves happy," says Villegas.

MILAGROS Oliveros, vice president for marketing and communications of SM

Malls close to routes taken by the funeral cortege suffered a few hours' slowdown but bounced back right after

JULIA'S white tank top, white capri pants and tiered kimono vest

Feminine fancy

THE COLLECTION FROM Julia, exclusively available at Robinsons Department Store, can help one pull off a stylish look with its array of woven tops and bottoms, knits, jackets and skirts that can be mixed and matched for every occasion.

An all-white wraparound blouse radiates "female power."

A pleated black butterfly-sleeved blouse worn over a pencil cut gray skirt makes for a striking ensemble for a power lunch meeting.

Pair the same blouse with figure-flattering black slacks and be transformed into a fun-loving femme fatale ready to party till dawn.

A sexy black-and-white mini dress matched with black-heeled pumps is a standout.

The bat little black top with hot-pink ribbon and bruse-cut detail is for the belle of the ball.

For afternoon mailing or coffee with girl friends, Julia's tailored cropped pants and white polo (with beautifully accented sleeves), worn with strappy heels, is a good bet.

A soft velvety fuchsia blouse shows off one's sexy silhouette. Wear pointed pumps and finish off the ensemble with a hip black belt.

The endless choices of chic yet affordable dresses, tailored coats, vests, mini dresses, even men's shirts and other smart pieces to look embellished fabrics allow one to dress well without spending too much.

Visit www.robinsonsdepartmentstore.com.ph

(Shot on location at Jardin de Miramar in Antipolo City. Visit www.miramar.com.ph)

JILL-PETE wraparound blouse paired with white pants and black belt accent

LIFESTYLE Fashion Beauty

Two men—and the beauty products they enjoy

Beauty products for men are at their highest sales ever, boosted by offerings formulated specifically for their skin

SMART GOLD

Stay in touch.
Stay in style.

Only from SMART Gold.

BlackBerry® Storm™ smartphone

P8,300 cash-out at Plan 3500

Great deal

Key Features:
3.2MP camera with flash and auto focus
•
Built in GPS. Preloaded with BlackBerry® Maps
•
SurePress Touch Screen

More choices. Better deals. Right at your fingertips. That's the Smart Gold advantage.

BlackBerry Storm

Optimized for social networking

www.smart.com.ph

Beauty remedies from the kitchen

Chilled tea bags for the eye area, anyone?

Isabel Rocas, Bodyshop Pro

YOU DON'T ALWAYS NEED TO buy expensive products to keep yourself looking young and beautiful. Sometimes, the best natural products can be found right in your own fridge!

These kitchen-bean solutions are fast, effective and easy to do by yourself. They're also made up solely of household items. Listen to two beauty experts.

Puffy eyes

"Tea-puffing eyes are easy to do and easy on the budget. Every time you have yourself a cup of tea, keep the tea bag in the fridge. When you wake up in the morning, just take two tea bags and place one on each eye. Lie back and relax for 10 minutes. The caffeine works as a decongestant and the coldness of the tea bag will reduce the swelling. Most effective eye creams have caffeine in them. Dark circles and puffiness are a result of pooled fluid in the eye area. Caffeine will regulate the blood circulation to the area and then the fluid all drains out. Voila! Bright, unpuffed eyes. Just don't put the tea bags in the freezer because the intense cold will ruin delicate capillaries in your eye area. Putting the tea bags in the fridge will give them the perfect temperature." —Claire Sordio-Dholakia, professional makeup artist, 0927.3484698, Ilha Dorada Tease

Shiki Intensive cleansing oil

Acne scars

To remove acne scars, apply a puree of pineapple for 15 minutes, which will freshen you up and reduce the impact of acne marks and scars. As other good and proven effective remedy is to mix fresh lime juice with half a glass of boiled milk. Apply it to freshly cleansed skin, leave to dry, then rinse with warm water and pat dry. —Kat Gonzales, Physician-entrepreneur

Oil-based soap

Using facial soaps can leave pore-clogging residue and strip away the skin's natural protection. Try using oil-based products; they have the ability to help restore elasticity, smoothness and moisture levels to undernourished skin.

CLAIRE Sordio-Dholakia

His Ultimate's Cleansing Oil range claims to contain no harsh detergents, dyes and hardeners found in soap. It's pure and gentle, excellent for all skin conditions. The newly released Aloe Rosacea Cleansing Lotion incorporates high performance cleansing oils to remove makeup or be used as a daily cleansing wash.

Kiehl's Superbly Restorative Argan Body Cleansing Oil also has an "oil-to-creamy" lathering formula that gently cleanses skin without stripping it of essential lipids.

RAY Gonzales

Kiehl's Superbly Restorative Argan Body Cleansing Oil, for extra-dry skin

Two men—and the beauty products they enjoy

How to keep underarms blemish-free

IF I WERE TO RANK BEAUTY dilemmas according to popularity or the number of times they come up to screen, caring for dark underarms would be number one. There seems to be a fascination to brighten skin on this area, or at least keep it clean and blemish-free.

With the help of dermatologist Ilke-to Mitz Martinez, a fellow at the Philippine Dermatological Society and member of the American Academy for Laser Medicine and Surgery, we address the most pressing armpit questions.

1) What causes underarm darkening?

"The most common cause of underarm hyperpigmentation is post-inflammatory reaction resulting from an irritant or allergic contact dermatitis," explains Martinez. This happens when skin reacts to certain ingredients such as the fragrance in deodorants or chemicals from shaving gels.

Mariel Chua, Beauty in the Big Apple

"Hormonal changes from pregnancy are also a frequent cause of underarm discolouration," adds Martinez. "But this condition is usually temporary."

2) Is lemon good for whitening dark underarms?

"Lemon—or short crystal—has been used traditionally as an antiseptic-decolorant. It leaves a film which may give a temporary appearance of underarm whitening. [But] can also cause irritation." As a general rule, Martinez recommends antiperspirants without fragrances and dyes. As with any product, if you are considering doing something because you've heard it's worth it, keep it.

3) How can I avoid underarm skin hyperpigmentation?

Your first line of defense is to minimize irritation on the area. The less you fiddle with skin on armpits, the better. "Avoid too much plucking and shaving," advises Martinez. "[It also helps to] change antiperspirants," especially when the one you're using seems to be contributing to pigmentation.

4) What are my options to lighten skin on the area?

"It is best to see a board-certified dermatologist who can evaluate the cause of your underarm darkening and who can prescribe a lightening agent or perform mild chemical peels." According to Martinez, results are faster than over-the-counter regimens, and in the long run, are even save you money. "Buying laser hair removal can [also] help lighten dark underarms, since you would [no longer] be shaving or plucking," she adds.

5) What kind of laser treatments work?

Pigment-specific lasers or intense pulse light (IPL) sessions combined with radiofrequency are common solutions to hyperpigmentation, not just on the armpits but also on other parts of the body (where there are freckles or sun spots). These treatments come as a premium—be prepared to spend at least P6,000 for a session and up for a series.

Mariel Chua is the former beauty editor of Cosmopolitan, Seventeen and Oh! Magazine Philippines. Ask a beauty question at http://beautyinthebig Apple.com.

Rhea May Martinez, MD, Dermatologist and Surgical Consultant, FPCS Medical Plaza Ortigas Condo, 25 San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Tel. 6346724; www.web.mac.com/drrheamartinez

ANGEL Lucas for Reuters

How effective is breast-firming cream?

MAKEOVER 911

Kissy Sulat

KERASTASE for hair volume

A BREAST-FIRMING CREAM isn't just for those with big bosoms who want to prevent the sag due to gav- or post-childbirth. It's also for those who want a full-cup size.

Most Asian women who wear A, should actually wear B and a D should really be C or even E. Those with big breasts that are starting to sag should get a bra that's a size bigger on the breasts still look more in proportion to their body.

Apply the breast cream twice a day on the décolletage, neck, chin and upper arms to help reduce the size. Follow the technique stated on the package for maximum results.

I even used the cream for my double chin and puffy cheeks on days when my face-firming cream runs out. Note: Severely sagging breasts require surgery.

Bust Firming Creams that passed the road test: Avon Bust Sculpt, P495; Clarins Bust Beauty Lotion, and Godrej Breast Firming Cream. These firm up skin as well as moisturize and smoothen the area.

A fashion-expert-fav treatment, Cosmocruise LB 6, strengthens the dermis or deeper layers of skin by correcting circulation deficiencies and stimulating fibroblasts to increase collagen production and improve elasticity after four weeks and 15-20 sessions, some report they do not even need bra for small C-cups and smaller size) for that extra boost. Others have reported full-cup size increase.

Hair treatment

Since the times of the classic period girls like Ursula Andress, Sung, Josh and big (ish) hair has been synonymous with being attractive. Those with thin, fine and flat hair will love the new treatment by Kerastase called Volumorphose.

The ceremonium gives the illusion of volume and shine. I had my ceremonium in the Kerastase room at Beauty Bar Lab in Glorietta 4. The ceremonium is massaged into the hair and left for about 15 minutes then rinsed off. For 10 glorious days, one can have fuller hair without the need to blow-dry or set with rollers. With every shampoo, the hair gets less fluffy so try to wash every other day to make it last 15 days. It is available at salons that sell Kerastase products. Treatment starts at P1,800, depending on hair length.

Avon Anilisa is 8045,0900; e-mail Anilisa.ph@avon.com. Clarins is exclusively available at Rustan's Department Store. Cosmocruise LB 6 for bosom, call Belomed at 894,1939.

E-mail the author at kissysulat@yahoo.com

BENCH Fix Lab

Skincare for youthful-looking eyes

THIS TOTAL EYE treatment has been created specially for mature skin types, encompassing all visible signs of aging. Formulated with Concentrated Corrective DP, it restores elasticity, improves the appearance of deep wrinkles and crow's feet, and visibly firms the eye area. Result: youthful, radiant-looking eyes.

THEN gives your skin 24-hour moisturizer while holding skin's strength and enhancing its youthful look more each day.

How a blusher can define the shape of one's face

BLUSHERS NOT ONLY OFFER A healthy dose of color on the face. When applied correctly, it can make a round face look slimmer and angular features softer.

It's all about technique. Strategic strokes can balance one's face shape, making it look more defined.

Here's a quick guide on how a blusher can complement the shape of one's face.

Round—Apply blush in a sweeping motion. Starting under the cheekbones, work your way up to the temple. This brings out your cheekbones while minimizing the fullness of your face. Blend the red as well so your blush won't look like shocking stripes on cheeks.

Square—Smile, and swirl the blusher on the apples of your cheeks. This softens an angular shape and reduces the sharpness of the jaw line. Using a large, fluffy brush makes application easier.

Long—Instead the blush from the outermost part of cheek apple extending to the middle of the eyes. This makes the face appear wider and balances the face shape.

Heart—Blend the color following the contour of the cheek apple, going up diagonally to the ear. This brings out the cheekbones while adding symmetry to a small chin and jaw line.

Kelly Mira, Bride of the Week

Using texture

When it comes to using texture, chief makeup artist for Model Co. Bianca Valeria suggests matte blush for the apples of the cheeks, and shimmer for the cheekbones. This makes the face look more angled or chiseled. "Avoid shimmer blush on the contours of your face if you want a slimmer-looking face."

BLUSHART rouge

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A new head of hair —without pills or surgery

The answer may lie in 'cold' low-level laser hair therapy

By Anne A. Jardioro

HOW CAN YOU WIN the fight between you trying to keep your hair and your body trying to lose them?

The answer may lie in "cold" low-level laser hair therapy (LLLHT).

Called Revage Laser Hair Recovery, the non-invasive, nonsurgical treatment works by using laser light energy on hair follicles. The device, with a 180-degree rotating head, distributes laser energy evenly and consistently on the scalp. The effect is said to be a remarkable increase in the microcirculation of blood supply to the scalp.

"Revage is the first technology that actually reverses hair loss. It is the first device that is actually creating new blood formation, known as neovascularization," said Dr. Javed Mohmed, M.D., a specialist in non-surgical cosmetic enhancement and age management medicine.

A member of the American Academy of Aesthetic Medicine and the American Society for Laser Surgery and Medicine, Mohmed said 80 percent of patients can expect complete cessation of hair loss, with hair regrowth of 50 percent or more.

Available only at the Swenson-Mohmed branch, "all FDA-approved Revage has a hood lowered to a mere 2 cm from the scalp to ensure maximum irradiation and minimal dispersion of laser light energy."

Mohmed said the wavelength of the laser affects the chemistry of the cell and its production, increasing cellular metabolism and repairing damaged cells and weakened hair follicles. It is topical medication is included in the treatment.

Hair transplantation, noted Mohmed, involves surgery, and therefore all the risks associated with surgery. Oral medication doesn't stop hair loss. It stimulates blood circulation, but its effects disappear after eight hours. What drives it to six months, the hair falls off again.

"With Revage, (patients) have avoided hair surgery and hair transplantation, and have grown to keep their own hair. There is no technology (like it right now) that actually causes hair to grow and creates new blood vessel formation," he said.

DR. DAVID MELMED, world specialist in nonsurgical cosmetic enhancement, with Swenson's Dr. Ariel Torres

Five years

Treatment takes only 20 minutes twice a week for the first three months, Mohmed continued. Depending on how the scalp responds, treatments can be another three months or so before it's gradually reduced to once a month.

By the end of one year, a patient would have received between 50-75 treatments. Usually the treatment stops right there.

"The result will last for up to five years. This is because the body changes, by then. We get older, our metabolism, hormones could mean we no longer the same after five years. Again, depending on the patient, they may or may not be using any topical medication to the treated five years," he said.

Revage is ideal for balding and thinning hair for both men and women. Early intervention is better, Mohmed said, since their would usually require less treatments to yield results. Some patients even come in with their parents; that's how young they are, he said.

Practicing in Europe and the US for the past 14 years, Mohmed said he has not seen any negative side effects. The use of laser light energy in medicine began 30 years ago, when it was used to treat wounds. The stimulation of blood vessel formation allowed the wounds to heal significantly faster, he said. This finding prompted the study on its effect on human hair growth.

"It does not generate heat; it does not burn the veins or hurt the skin. The 'cold' laser light energy does not penetrate beyond the hair," Mohmed said.

Store offers easy payment scheme for jewelry

ONE CANNOT POSSIBLY GO WRONG investing in jewelry. Apart from its timeless beauty, its value does not depreciate.

Metro Department Store has a whole selection of jewelry...in different colors, styles and prices—from diamonds and pearls to gold and silver plus pre-owned items.

However, investing in jewelry can be quite costly so Metro offers easy-on-the-pocket payment schemes.

Discounts starting at 5 percent to as much as 20 percent on regular-price items for outright cash purchases are offered. Every month, selected pieces are put on sale, brand-new and pre-owned.

Customers can enjoy long-term payments with zero-percent interest up to 12 months. They can also get up to six months zero-percent interest for a minimum purchase of P5,000 on select Bank, Chinese, Singapore and Hong Kong gold. There are even added discount of 10 percent or more on the six-month zero-percent interest purchases on other items.

For a minimum 20 percent deposit on cash basis only, customers can use the Easy Lay-Away Plan.

Free engraving is offered on added value for plain wedding rings purchased at the jewelry department. All Silver Verona rings, earrings bracelets, necklaces and pendants come with lifetime free cleaning service.

Metro Department Store is in The Fort, Ayala Center in Cebu, Manduae, Cubao, Legazpi and Laoag, soon to open at MarQuee Mall in Angeles City.

EVERY (watch)-brand-new and pre-owned pieces are on sale.

Don't let aging slow you down

TO HELP YOU COPE WITH THOSE stress, you need a constant source of energy.

B vitamins (Vitamin B Complex) are used by the body to convert and break down carbohydrates, fats and proteins into energy, commonly referred to as the metabolic process.

B vitamins also help in the proper functioning of the nervous system, strengthening of the immune system, formation of red blood cells and maintenance of liver, skin, hair, mouth and eyes.

Deficiency in B vitamins results to low blood sugar level, increased irritability, fatigue and poor mental functioning.

Arthmatin Gold, available in nutrient form, accelerates the conversion from co-enzyme state, requiring chemical reactions to easily breakdown fat, protein and carbohydrates into energy. Co-enzymes are essential elements needed by the body to obtain energy from food.

Activated B complex immediately diffuses through the cell membranes for direct absorption. So they are absorbed, distributed, metabolized and made available faster than their inactive counterparts, relieving the liver from its workload.

Arthmatin Gold contains the activated forms of B1, B2, B6 and B12. Unlike ground vitamins, Arthmatin Gold's B vitamins are easily digested.

So when aging holds a step sign on your daily activities, boost your mind and body with the activated B vitamins of Arthmatin Gold.

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Parentesi line of the roaring '20s steps into 21st century

By Alex T. Vergara

AMID THE DOOM and gloom of the economic downturn, Bulgari gave its high-end market in the Philippines something to smile about when it launched the Parentesi collection at the Italian jewelry brand's flagship store in Makati.

Put together by general manager Mario Konghisk, it was a cocktail party and selling show, as models decked in precious and semiprecious stones emerged from Bulgari's fitting booth. It went and mingled with guests to show and talk about their precious wear.

As with past collections, this one was crafted to conform to the Parentesi trademark inspired by Rome's cobbled roads and pavements.

"It's part of Bulgari's global celebration to mark its 125th anniversary," said Konghisk. "The exhibition started in May with the opening of a year-long exhibit in Rome featuring rare and expensive Bulgari pieces. Some pieces on exhibit are on loan from famous customers such as Elizabeth Taylor."

The Parentesi line—a line of earrings, necklaces, bracelets and rings—has undergone 12 reincarnations since it was first introduced by Bulgari in the 2000s. The company is one of a few remaining luxury brands that are still family-owned and managed.

Konghisk has brought in 30 pieces for the launch. Bulgari's headquarters and main factory are in Rome.

Noteworthy

Just like its forerunner in the '20s, the current Parentesi line is noteworthy for its combination of colors and impeccable craftsmanship. It draws its brilliance from countless pavé diamonds that link colorful and eye-catching semiprecious stones such as blue topaz, citrine and amethyst.

The Parentesi line, from chunky necklaces to huge cocktail rings, is bold but never garish. This is attributed to the attention Bulgari designers and craftsmen put into each jewelry piece.

The pave of the jewelry that touches the skin is almost as smooth and even as the outside. Both sides of each stone are expertly polished. Nothing is left

MARITES. FI

Necklaces are crafted in such a way that they fall evenly around their wearer's necks and chests

COCKTAIL ring

Parentesi line of the roaring '20s steps into 21st century

From page F1

to enhance.

Necklaces are pliable and crafted in such a way that they fall evenly around their wearer's necks and chests. Bulgari's craftsmen are able to achieve this because each piece is composed of separate elements molded and finished individually before they are strung together.

"Bulgari also sees to it that each piece is securely in place," said Ratigbak. "We want to provide our customers with beautiful and durable pieces they can pass on to their children and grandchildren."

Illusion

Unlike most brands, a typical Bulgari piece doesn't have any noticeable clasp or link, which gives it the illusion of one continuous line. In keeping with its image and prominence, it doesn't use gold lower than 18K.

"It's both for safety and aesthetic reasons," said Ratigbak of the discreet box secure lock. "The last thing we want is for our customers to lose their precious pieces."

She never chap, in fact, looks so seamless that Knightsbak found herself attending to a customer during Christmas Day several years ago. As Christmas gift, a man bought his wife a Parentesi bracelet. But when the wife wanted to wear it later in the day, she said the husband couldn't figure out how to unlock the link.

"My staff was quite thorough in teaching him how to unlock it, but apparently he forgot," said Ratigbak. "So I had to rush over to their house on Christmas Day as the pair was preparing for a party."

Such attention to details, of course, comes with a price. Depending on a particular piece's style and size, prices for the Parentesi range from P408,000 to P1.3 million.

But you don't have to be that liquid to tap into the Bulgari lifestyle. As part of its anniversary celebration, the brand is offering commemorative silver rings worth P19,500 each.

Proceeds from the ring sales go to a worthy cause, "Rewrite the Future," a worldwide education program for school-age kids in developing countries.

Beauty products, fragrances inspired by nature

THE CANADIAN COMPANY FRUITS & Passion presents Fruity Collection Foaming Hand Soap, Waterlost Hand Soap, Lip Balm and Quenching Butter.

Foaming Hand Soap has a soft and creamy texture. Waterlost Hand Soap possesses the skin fast and does not leave a sticky residue. Lightly tinted, glow-healthy Lip Balm features delectable gourmet aromas. Quenching Butter provides the fresh texture of a cream gel with the moisturizing properties of butter.

Always on the cutting edge, Fruits & Passion is also the first company to offer a foaming hand-soap refill, which is both eco-friendly and economical.

The new Fruity Collection include the all-time favorite fragrances Orange-Cranberry, Field Berries, Georgia Peach and Grapefruit-Guava. Another combination designed to expand and enhance the Fruity line is Pear-Peony with delicate floral accents.

In the Philippines, Fruits & Passion is exclusively distributed by Steven Specialties, Inc. (SSI) and is at Greenbelt 3, Bonifacio High Street, Alabang Town Center, SM Mall of Asia, Rustan's Tower Mandaluyong and Trinoma.

FRUITS and Passion's perfumed candles, body-care duo, soap refill and fragrance

Funky, classic, colorful–but always comfy

Mors is a big fan of fun and chic pieces

THE TERM "SERIOUSLY BEAUTY" best describes Natasha Mors' full pouting lips, cat's eyes and prominent cheekbones. Those features she inherited from what she herself calls her "mestiza" lineage—an English father and a Filipina mother.

Mors grew up in the East Coast of the US and traveled often to Europe. She went to university in Worcester, England, where she received a Business degree.

Working briefly in her parents' property management business to sprout her cilios exposed her to, and probably hollowed her liking for, private properties which are timeless and classic. For her minimalist tastes, she prefers contemporary pieces.

THE WORKING CLASS

Ross Shapan-Go
Contributor

When Mors was asked to judge beauty pageants such as the Miss Hawaiian Tropic, Miss Philippines USA and Look of the West, her peers encouraged her to venture into putting up a talent agency and management consulting firm.

She took on the challenge, and soon it was "Welcome Hollywood!" There, she established her company, which specializes in PR, marketing, events planning, and business development.

Her parents, meanwhile, had retired to Manila. That gave Mors the urge to set up another business here. She partnered with Danny Si (an original founder of Thanh Long Restaurant in San Francisco, the Cruzcuran Restaurants in Beverly Hills and San Francisco, and Prima in Las Vegas) to put up Aquaknox Contemporary Vietnamese Cuisine. Prima in Manila, she runs the day-to-day operations of the restaurant.

This jet setter's management of work and play hasn't been easy. A true workaholic, Mors tended to neglect her needs, but she had a rude awakening when her beloved pet died, forcing her to re-evaluate her lifestyle.

Nowadays, she allows herself the luxury of enjoying downtime and rest... like going to the spa, where the stone massage and facial are her staples.

In fashion, Mors is a big fan of colors and fun and chic pieces. Her wardrobe includes a lot of Roberto Cavalli for that sequined look, Gucci, Hermes and Chanel are favorite brands for purses. When she's feeling frisky, she goes for Louis Vuitton, Dior or Fendi. For shoes, it's Prada.

Her clothes can be fun, yet classic styles are also close to her heart. And knowing how busy an entrepreneur's life can be, she always goes for comfort.

What everyone–doctor and patient alike–should know about skin cancer

There is nothing pretty about a suntan or sunburn

By Howard Murad, M.D.
Contributor

PART I

THE LARGEST ORGAN OF THE BODY, YOUR skin is affected by one of the fastest growing categories of cancer (in the US)...skin cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime.

As skin care professionals, our responsibility is to educate our clients on ways to tolerably and prevent skin cancer.

Inadequate

When UV rays bombard the skin, they damage the cell's genetic material. Much of that structural damage is repaired, but when the repair mechanism is damaged or inadequate, the cells may begin to grow uncontrollably and create a malignant tumor.

Ultraviolet light is directly responsible for two types of skin cancer—basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. Particularly severe sunburns in childhood are thought to be key risk factors. Overexposure to sunlight, and a history of blistering sunburns, are associated with the deadly form of skin cancer, melanoma.

There are three types of radiation to the ultraviolet spectrum of sunlight: UVA, UVB and UVC. These rays are categorized by their wavelength, which also determines how deeply the rays penetrate the skin.

UVA—called the "aging" ray—is the longest ultraviolet ray that penetrates down to the

MURAD Oil-Free Sunblock, SPF 15 and SPF 30

PAGE 14

The First Sale at Glorietta 5

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glorietta

MAGENTA jersey evening dress with back detail

MACO Cordelia dress for the Cory yellow theme

JEWELRY's golden pearls on Quinones' draped pastel gown

PRUSSIAN blue tufted strapless dress with floor-length ruffle

MULTIPLEATED short shoulder gown

ORANGE to right: Origami beaded cocktail dress with side train train

Puey Quinones' bold, dramatic couture conquers Iloilo

Manila's most innovative designer showed the standing-room-only crowd his brand of modern fashion

By Larry Laviste
Contributor

RECESSION IS THE MOTHER of inventions," said Puey Quinones when he staged the highest of couture at the Hotel del Rio in Iloilo last week.

The well-heeled audience saw jackets that turned into trousers, and dresses transforming into gowns right there on the ramp, giving new meaning to the concept of investment dressing.

Manila's most innovative designer dictated the standing room only crowd his brand of modern fashion by carting cloth directly to models amid protestations. In seconds, yards of material turned into cocktail frocks and gala gowns, draped with bias strips, wrapped with belts and accessorized with gorgeous golden pearls by Jewelmer.

The fluctuating grande dames of Iloilo were delighted with this 21st century way of dressing up. After all, in the 1950s, this arena of Edsilvap Hall was the last word on Philippine couture. Then staged at the Winter Garden of the original Manila Hotel, now National Artist of Fashion Ramon Valera would use dazzling terms for the moneyed expatriates of Iloilo as they danced the pasodoble.

What Valera created was the template all other Pinoy designers would copy or riff on, from draping to beadwork.

It was in these social mega-events that the "skate-eyed" gowns were premiered... meticulously beaded numbers described in open coats that hid the dramatic, fully beaded gowns underneath. That is, until the start of the cigarette & brew after dinner when, like blooming exotic flora, watery wraps like Doots Kintes, Chito Madrigal and Baby Puno would glide into formation, spewing the voluminous capes to reveal the stunning numbers underneath. They would have the whole ballroom gasping in awe at such creativity.

Quinones is cut from the same cloth as Valera, for he is bold in his designs and has no hesitant grasp of the dramatic. Already eyeing a parade through Manila's fashion scene, he triumphs because he is committed to the old-school duty of doing haute couture. He takes no shortcuts and has done his time in the trenches.

Today, his loving clients Tingting Cojuangco, Irene Antonio, Imee Marcos and BC Concepcion care living testaments to a 27-year-old who is both fiercely original and astutely skilled.

SETTING up the Louis Lebovitz show

Iconic bag celebrates landmark moon landing

LOUIS VUITTON CELEBRATES the 40th anniversary of man's conquest of the moon by bringing together three pioneering astronauts to do ad campaigns. Buzz Aldrin, the second man to set foot on the moon, Jim Lovell, the commander of the ill-fated Apollo 13 mission, who heroically guided his crew back to the safety of Earth; and Sally Ride, who in 1983 became the first American woman to venture into space as a crew member on Space Shuttle Challenger.

The campaign, ones more photographed by Annie Leibovitz, was shot on the high plateau of the Californian desert. The three astronauts are portrayed quietly surveying the sky from a battered pickup truck. Beside them on the truck is Louis Vuitton's luxe travel bag in Monogram canvas.

The tagline, in search of Still Another Way, echoes Neil Armstrong's famous words in 1969, says "Some journeys change mankind forever."

The brand is also launching a dedicated website—louisvuitton.com/moon.com—on which Aldrin, Lovell and Ride discuss how the experience of space changed their lives.

The interactive site allows users to view the interviews, filmed with three separate movie cameras, from various angles. The interviews can also be downloaded to a computer, MP3 player or mobile phone.

Also featured on louisvuitton.com/moon.com is a making-of video of the interviews, as well as a focus on The Climate Project, spearheaded by Nobel Peace Prize winner Al Gore, for which Louis Vuitton is making a donation on behalf of the three astronauts.

Visit louisvuitton.com.

OFFICIAL photo for Louis Vuitton's Core Values campaign

BEHIND the scenes: Buzz Aldrin, Jim Lovell, Annie Leibovitz

What everyone—doctor . . .

From page F1

dermis. Most UVA rays pass through the outer layer of the atmosphere to bombard the earth and your skin. UVA, called the "aging" rays, is the middle length ray mostly filtered by the ozone layer. However, these that do reach the earth can penetrate the epidermis and permanently injure developing cells.

While the world's scientific experts debate the issue of ozone layer depletion, one thing remains clear: the depletion of the ozone layer over the past two decades has caused a 10-percent increase in the UVB rays reaching the earth's surface.

UVC rays are the shortest rays in the spectrum, and they are totally absorbed by the ozone layer and do not injure the skin. However, as the ozone layer depletes, we will learn more about the effects of UVC.

Irresistible

Unfortunately this increase in UVB, though just one part of the sun's damaging ultraviolet spectrum, is known to be the cause of skin damage we are all too familiar with—sunburns and increased potential for skin cancers.

The direct effects of the increased UVB exposure, which are immediate and possibly irreversible, include increased incidence of all skin cancer types, damage to the eyes... causing sunsensitiveness and cancers, damage to the lymphocytes—leading to a reduction in the body's natural defense against infection, and the attack of free radicals which can cause damage and worse loss to all cells.

The good news is high levels of topically applied Vitamin C can help reverse much of the sun damage seen on the skin.

Important steps

What can one do to protect family, friends and self from the harmful effects of sun exposure?

It is, first and foremost, important to reduce sun exposure, especially during the high-intensity periods of the day between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. It is essential to get into the habit of using sunscreen daily, year-round, and to take oral antioxidants on a daily basis.

These are vital in preventing further sun damage and possibly skin cancer. A mild to moderate sunburn is painful and a severe sunburn can be life-threatening. Moreover, repeated sunburns, even if only mild, may come back to haunt the sun worshipper years later, in the form of skin cancer.

A sunburn is not something to be taken lightly nor is tanning. Tanning is your body's defense mechanism. There is nothing pretty about a tanner or sunburn.

Second, as the causality of sun damage accumulates before the age of 18, parents should be educated on the importance of daily sunscreen application on infants and small children.

Applying sunscreen, and dressing children in hats and protective clothing as well as relocating them as they get older, will help in encouraging a healthy sun protection habit.

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Green is so 'in' for mall and its tenants

In building Greenbelt, the architects designed the buildings around the age-old trees to avoid cutting them down

By Cherie V. Moral

IT'S HARD BUT IT'S DOABLE.

That's fashion designer Patrick Ramos firm on how realistic it is to be green in the ng trade.

Diaz, owner of the boutique Herald in Greenbelt 5 fetakat, is among those tapped by Ayala Malls, her landlord, to designing fers from Earth-friendly bags to bolster the mall's environment-awareness campaign called "Greenology."

Ayala Malls takes pride in being a pioneer of sustainable practices in local malls, beginning from the designs of its buildings that require, say, less air conditioning, according to Marivic Altamirano, Ayala Malls group SVP and group head. It also incorporates green patches or areas parks in its malls. In building Greenbelt, for instance, the architects designed the buildings around the age-old trees to avoid having them felled.

"It starts more at the onset," Diaz, who has been developing her own fabrics using local fibers, added. "But it can be done... Since it's more expensive, you also need to make some adjustments," such as by targeting a higher-end market.

At the Greenology launch recently, the mall presented the bag creations of six designers, all of them Greenbelt 5 merchants in the Filipino Zone: Lesto Chiamedo (Silpoh), Micki Cuaco (retro blouse bracelet, via Barbie Dimbwi), Ann Escarlo (Don Escarlo), Randy Ortiz (Myla) and Shu.

To be sold each at P400 beginning this month at every Ayala Mall courtesy, P100 per purchase will go to World Wide Fund, while P75 will go to each designer's chosen charity or organization.

Diaz has picked Haribon Foundation's awe-filling project on hawks from sales of her cotton twill-and-Quiapo flower (blanket) bags. Chiamedo, a dog lover, has chosen the Philippine Animal Welfare Society for his multi-pocket extra-large totes that could fit my dogs.

Ortiz, who has been working with Manila shoemakers, tapped the local cobblers as beneficiary to begin of reviving the city's shoe and leather industry. Bachu, who had once worked with Gloria and Cancer Foundation to turn his fabric scraps into bags for his boutique, chose this group that supports marginalized communities.

Soria's beneficiary is the Earth Day

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Life. Styled by
DEBENHAMS

BCD TOTTE designers and Ayala Mall tenants Randy Ortiz, Michi Calles Soriz, Vic Borba, Patrice Ramos Diaz and Louie Claparols

BLACK and white Eco Tees by Randy Ortiz

Green is so 'in'. . .

From page 6

Network, which campaigns for proper waste management. Rustan's hopes will benefit an elderly home called Casa de Virginia.

Apart from the reusable totes, the mall merchandising previewed their Green Line, a limited collection of clothing and accessories using eco-friendly materials. From Sept. 18-30, these will be available at Bayo, Folded & Hung, Asanas, Religious, Canopy, Actel Pepa, Asia Rocks and at the boutiques of the Eco Tote designers.

On Aug. 28-Sept. 11, all Ayala Malls will also host an exhibit of so-called Eco Art, art installations that highlight the trash that surrounds us from using plastic and paper cups. Participating artists are Alma Quinto, Pete Jimenez, Mac Valdez, Bel Antopanta and students from various universities.

The mall chain, in partnership with Globe Telecom, Ayala Land and Bayan Bakhaan, will also host a 5K, 3K, 10K and 21K munchies called Eco Trash on Sept. 13 at Bonifacio High Street. A cash donation of P1,000,000 will go to Bayan Bakhaan, and marathoners like Wow Huang (who scored 01:02:22), Lotis Carpio, Thess Valdez and Mandy Sunico were present at the launch.

MANDY Sunico, (left) Eco Art by select artists and Fine Arts students

NINA Hsieng

BCD TOTTE by Patrice Ramos Diaz

LHICA Carpio

ARAHAZ bag

TESSA Valdez

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POND'S White Beauty Clear Solutions and Perfect Matte

Beauty essentials on sale, up to 70-percent off

POND'S HOLDS ITS FIRST-ever nationwide Big Beauty Sale, with up to 70 percent off the prices of beauty essentials, such as Age Miracle, Flawless White, Clear Solutions and White Beauty.

The Age Miracle range is said to provide radiant and younger-looking skin, while Flawless White, formulated for Asian skin, claims to visibly lighten the skin and reduce dark spots and blemishes.

Pond's White Beauty is aimed at skin's shallows, to restrict it to a pinkish-white glow. Clear Solutions promises clearer and smoother skin with its comprehensive regimen for acne-prone skin.

The Age Miracle Microdermabrasion Kit, Flawless White Vitamin Mask Lightening Mask, Anti-spot Intensive Whitening Serum, and Light-Infusing Under Eye Cream are all on sale for up to 70 percent off.

Get 50 percent off with Pond's Age Miracle Dual Eye Therapy UV Overnight Repair Serum, Daily Resurfacing Cream, Concentrated Resurfacing Serum, Daily Resurfacing Cream SPF 15 PA++, Cream-Pomp and Day Cream Pump, and Pond's Flawless White Visible Lightening Day Cream, Re-brightening Night Treatment.

It's 20 percent off for White Beauty Fresh & Whole Glow Lightening Cream and Pink-ish White Glow Lightening Facial Foam, and Pond's Clear Solutions Anti-Bacterial Facial Scrub, Breakout Control Lotion and Oil Control Cleansing Foam.

The Pond's Beauty Sale runs Aug. 15-Sept. 15. Text 7days (city) to 2948 (i.e. Text 7days (Manila) to 2948) or visit www.pondsbeauty.com.ph for a list of participating stores nationwide.

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Bea Alonzo

Chic, sensible accessories

MITZY bag by Mulberry

CHIC, AND STYLISH—those words describe the creations of the Mulberry fashion house.

With new creative director Emma Hill debuting the house's Spring-Summer '09 collection, the brand offers fresh, natural of bright and bold modern prints.

Hill rose to success with her accomplishments designing accessories for many of the great brands including Calvin Klein, Marc Jacobs and Gap.

The Mulberry accessories collection is teeming with fresh colors, from lipstick, turquoise, white and pink in lightweight leathers and a variety of textures.

The new additions to the label's ever-popular iconic lines, Mulberry introduces the latest generation of Mulberry bags—the spinner totes, the downtown Mitzy and playful oversize Bayswater clutches.

For the men, the Klint collection comes up rugged vintage leather, while the Taylor is for those who were denim and green canvas.

Mulberry is exclusively distributed by Rustan Commercial Corporation and is available at Rustan's Makati.

BAYSWATER clutch

SKY SPINNER bag

what's hot! what's hot! what's hot!

Style and speed calling

THE NEW Samsung Jet

SAMSUNG MOBILE LAUNCH es its most recent high-end innovation that steals the hevy of touch-screens in today's market. The Samsung Jet delivers the very best in power, speed and brilliance, all housed in a sleek and stylish design, to produce a unique touch experience.

Packed with features, the Jet remains user-friendly thanks to its Touch Wiz 2.0 user interface, where those always on-the-go can easily locate their favorite features: the music player, FM radio, games, video recorder and the camera, all in a rotating six-faced cube. Motion Gate is responsible for the motion recognition engine that allows users to tilt, tap or flip the phone for effortless access. Instead of using two fingers to zoom through pictures and documents, users will find the touch-screen phone more portable and convenient with its unique one-touch zoom. To make redording very efficient, Samsung introduces the "sonny lock," by "drawing" any letter of the alphabet or with a customized numeral, the user can jump directly to the menu he or she wants to go to.

Widgets can also be downloaded for weather, news or background functions. The 3-GPS application provides navigation assistant in 16-line 3D, based on the location of the phone. By interconnecting Google Maps and geo-tagging (a geo-magnetic sensor), the GPS system updates traffic conditions by SMS and with the aid of a digital compass. The phone's high-speed web access provides quick surfing through its multi-window browsing and bookmark function. Samsung Jet is the first feature phone to adopt the Microsoft Exchange Active Sync Email System.

All these standard features can be seen through the 3.1" WVGA AMOLED display that is clear enough for viewing the moving pictures captured by its five-megapixel camera! The high-resolution video images can be viewed in a 262 degree angle while consuming 40 percent less energy than LCDs. The Jet's accelerated speed processor of 800 MHz guarantees no lag time and its multi-task manager enables a more efficient use on the part of the user.

THE FIRST feature phone to adopt the Microsoft Exchange ActiveSync Email System

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Eco-Friendly Features
Inverter Technology
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Magic Top Technology
User-Friendly Bottom Freezer Design
INVERTER Technology
Electric Consumption Comparison
Current
Reduces 20% Electric Consumption

Look cool in funky jackets, stylish windbreakers

GUESS print hooded jacket

JACKETS ARE HOT in cool weather and guys can chill with stylish jackets from the Surplus Shop.

Bundle up in hip and trendy light-weight hoodies, funky sports jackets and stylish wind-breakers that look especially great when layered with other fun stuff from the store like graphic tees and casual pants and shorts.

Great for hosting the coin while heading to school or to the office, or for hanging out with friends, the jacket collection is available at the Surplus Shop at SM Makati, SM Megamall Bldgs A and D, the Block at SM City North EDSA, SM City Fairview, SM City Manila, SM City San Lazaro, SM City Sta. Mesa, SM City Bicutan, SM Southmall and SM Mall of Asia. In the provincial areas, these are located at the SM Supermalls in Dipolog, Bacolod, Davao, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Baguio, Sta. Rosa, Clarkton Bldg, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Lucena, Naga, Legazpi, Tacloban, Dumaguete and Puerto Princesa.

ZIPPED jacket with double striped seams on sleeves

ZIP-FRONT Color-blocked jacket

PRINTED blue hooded jacket from Surplus Shop

RED windbreaker

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TIFFANY keys in platinum—Peretti Key and Petals Key

STERLING silver Oval Key and Trebol Key

New collection reworks iconic pendants and charms

THE NEW TIFFANY KEYS Collection offers pieces that reinterpret iconic pendants and charms from the jewelry house's archives.

Stylishly suspended from fine, frail or even link chains, the new collection looks back to scenes of vintage pieces that have opened keepsake boxes, albums, clutches, steamer trunks, private clubs and country manors.

The Tiffany Keys Collection offers wearable designs, from romantic heart-shaped keys to luxurious pieces, embellished shaped keys in flower-topped rows.

Worn alone or layered, these 18-karat treasures are in choices of yellow or rose gold, platinum with diamonds or sterling silver. Actress Bel, Rebecca Jean Thomas and Amy Adams have been spotted wearing Tiffany's pieces.

In the Philippines, Tiffany is at the SM Supermalls in Dipolog, Bacolod, Davao, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Baguio, Sta. Rosa, Clarkton Bldg, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Lucena, Naga, Legazpi, Tacloban, Dumaguete and Puerto Princesa.

ACTRESS Scarlett Thomas wearing Tiffany keys at the 2009 SAG Awards

Co. is exclusively distributed by Rustan Commercial Corporation and is located at Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Shangri-La.

TIFFANY Keys collection in silver, platinum and gold: Sterling Silver Oval Key, Trebol Key, Petals Key, Quatrefoil Key, Sterling Silver Crown Key and Diamond Key

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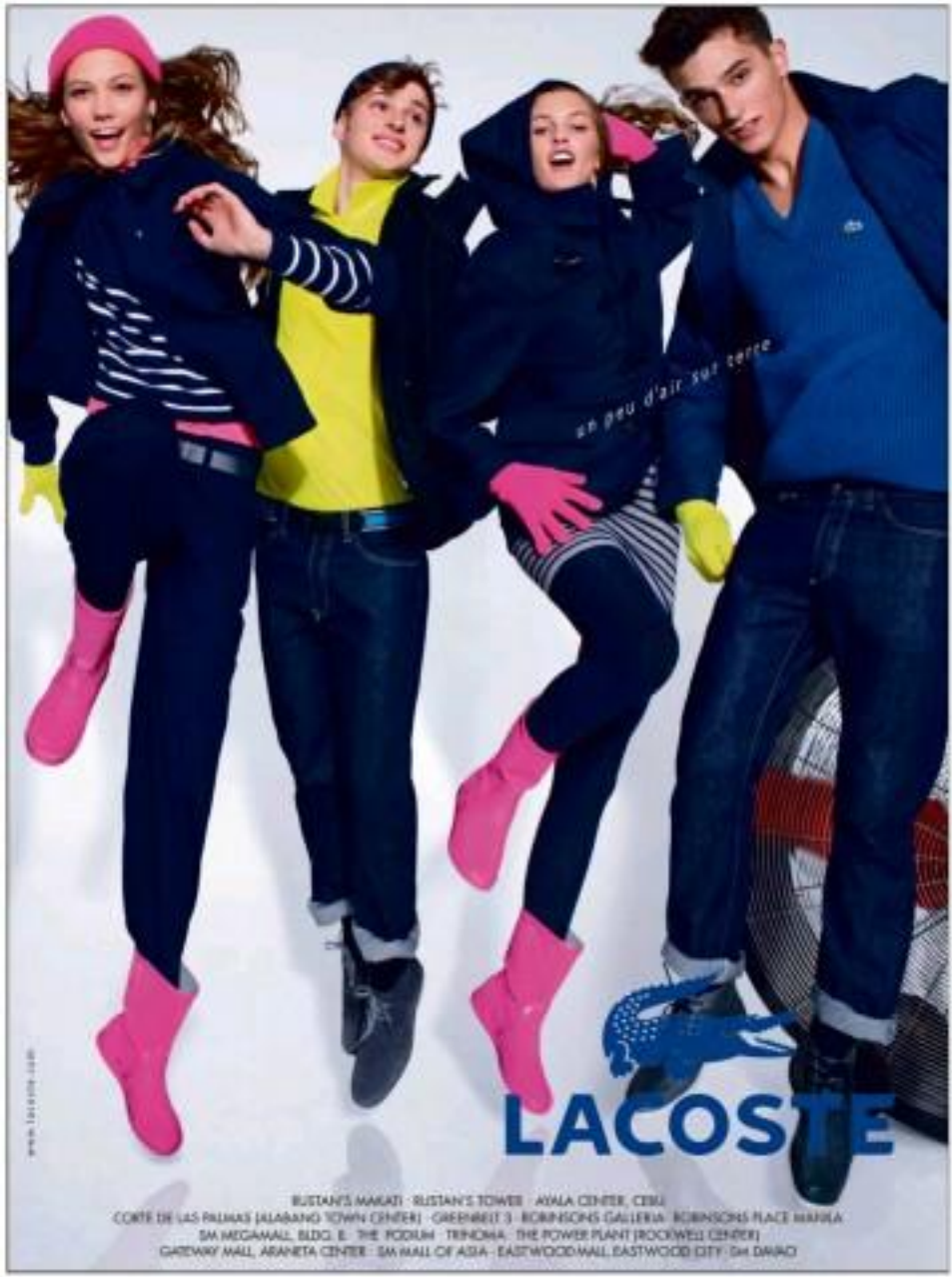
FLAME GRILLED FLAVORS OFF THE BONE

Jinkee is new Belo endorser



ANTON San Diego with Bella Eboña and Stormie Minanni

SANDY Moreno with Anne-Marie Sagrit and Mia Barrameda

OUR QUEEN for a day, she-morning Ina Ayala (center), with her gorgeous pals Dindy Reed and Nanna Severino

HASSLOU Bachmann with Antonia Cua and Claudia Tandoeming

Ina Ayala celebrates birthday with 'lunch bunch' friends

MARIANNE Fo

ZELDA Kanda

KAREN Santos with Rosanna Force and Cara Wilson Ferrari

AT THE Miss Fashion Week: Debutantant Janel Heidi Klein's favorite designer) Former Elle with Zoe Lifestyle publisher Eric Galba and Jing Ramos, executive editor Karen Ong will be the featured designer of Zoe's not-to-be-missed fashion show, opening out late August

MATT TYSMAUER with Valentino during the show

LIZETTE Cojuangco, the honoree Ina Ayala, Mandy Takeuchi and Kit Zobel

TINETTE Puyat with Missy Ayala and Minnie Ayala

MARITESS Hontiveros-Pineda, Corazon Ahrina and Tess Castro

HONORARY consul and SCES founding member Helen Ong, with host and SCES president and chairman, interior designer Gerry Contreras and Society treasurer Mini Valeriano

Diaca on Valentino

Matt Tyrnauer's "Valentino, The Last Emperor," a riveting documentary about the royal designer Valentino Garavani, will debut in his private salon with lifetime partner Giancarlo Giammetti and his fascinating career as the master of Italian haute couture spanning 45 years. Valentino has an endless list of world-renowned women clients like Jacqueline Kennedy (designing what she wore to her wedding with Aristotle Onassis, no less), palooga.

The Cebu and Davao-based wine-upscale magazine Zoe Lifestyle and hamming will present this acclaimed documentary in an exclusive one-time showing in Manila, Davao and Cebu. The by-invitation-only screening will happen on Aug. 20 in Manila, 23 in Davao, and 27 in Cebu. For more info, log on to www.zoelifestyle.com.

Art society

It was a beautiful of the dynamic trio of Jaime Laya, Gerry Contreras and Helen Ong that led to the founding of the Society for Cultivated Enrichment for... the lover, and honor league of art and culture aficionados, dabbings. The induction of officers and trustees at the posh Greens Plaza Penthouse was attended by founding members. The induction coincided with the birthday celebration of the founding member, society woman, charity organizer and civic leader Consul Helena Ong, no less, dabbings.

Inducted by Education Undersecretary Milma Labrador were presidents and chairmen Contreras; and vice-chairman, magnate Laya, who started the Central Bank collection that would become the basis in the country. Officers included civic leader and woman of substance Consul Ong, vice-president; Gliceria Cando, first VP; lively Mimi Valeriano, treasurer; free-wite Mariethia Rodrigues, assistant treasurer; genial Mars Landeloso, secretary; international soprano pianist Ritzi Sicobo, assistant secretary; and dynamic network whiz Jennifer Peddacden, PRO. Members of the board are Tess Castro, Betty Chua, Mila Flora, Tessie Lee, Margie Ortiz Luis and Mila Nalluo.

"This society promises to promote all fields of art and culture, broaden its encourage to many levels of society, especially our Philippine youth," explained Contreras, brilliant interior designer and business magnate.

The dozen 30 invitees included men and women of substance, social and economic glitter who want to make a difference in Philippine culture, palooga.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Stagen using FUJI Photo Solutions

Kenny's Urbanite Run

There is a one-of-a-kind run happening this August, palooga, courtesy of Kenny Rogers Roasters. The exciting Kenny's Open 2009 Urbanite Run will be held Aug. 15, 7 p.m., at Bonifacio Global City at the Fort.

With an advanced diving chip system to reveal the runners' progress and elimination of 5/10/15 kilometers, it is for the young and young-at-heart, where participants 18 years old and above can sign up.

Drop by any Kenny Rogers Roasters branch nearest you, dabbings, and get your urbanite ticket. Visit www.kenys.com.ph for more details.

It's for the benefit of Hands On Manila and ST-PI Movement. Donations will go to "championing nutrition for kids." This is co-presented by Cebu Zoo.

ALDEN Richards and Bangar Madrian queen Fe Santos Rodrigues with culture maven Ginny Dolor

LINDA Cruz with Undersecretary Milma Labrador, art expert Jimmy Laya and newly named National Artist, erotic class connoisseur Pitoy Moreno

CCP PRESIDENT Nes Jardeleza/SCES's first vice president Cristina Cando

MARIETHA Rodrigues with SCES assistant treasurer Letty Ayala

Shoe store offers big discounts to mark its 25th year

CONFETTI, A POPULAR CHAIN OF ladies' shoe store, celebrates its 25th anniversary with a month-long sale this month. Discounts of up to 50% off are available.

Vicky Jardeleza Villa founded Confetti in 1984. It was the scent of time to start a business. Despite the unstable political circumstances, Confetti opened its first store at the Greenbelt Arcade in Makati, offering shoes crafted in Marikina.

Confetti has always followed its goal of designing and offering beautiful shoes perfect for the working girls' budget, understood lifestyle and needs.

Responding to young mothers' requests for little girls' shoes to match their mothers', mother-daughter sets for all occasions are now available.

Confetti outlets are at Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City; Glorietta 5, Ayala Center, Makati City; SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City; Robinson's Place Ermita, Manila; SM Mall, Asiatown Center, Quezon City; Ilo Lucio East Grand Mall and Robinson's Department Stores-Galleria, Metro East and Davao, Cavite.

JINKEE Jamora-Pacquiao is the latest addition to the Belo medical group's elite roster of endorsers. With Jinkee is Belo medical group's Vicky Belo.

Jinkee is new Belo endorser

JINKEE JAMORA-PACQUIAO is the latest addition to the Belo Medical Group's roster of endorsers.

After giving birth to her third child, she underwent Belo SculptLipo to get rid of the unwanted post-natal fat. After her next pregnancy she gained a few pounds. This time, after her five-month-old, tailored surgery, with the help of the new Belo Duo Injections.

Jinkee has always enjoyed the simple life. She does what every wife and mother does—she takes care of the home, cares for and guides her growing children and stands as a pillar of support for her husband, general five-pound boxing champion, Manny Pacquiao.

But because she has a world-famous boxing champ as husband, Jinkee couldn't avoid the spotlight for long. As Manny became a global icon, he took his family into the limelight with him. Consequently being in the public eye made Jinkee realize the importance of always looking her best.

Jinkee now has more confidence to attend fashion events, grace magazine covers and re-enact her on a billboard for the Belo Medical Group. With a winning figure and a brand-new attitude, Jinkee is now "Belofied" and ready to face the world.

Aside from having a new endorser, the Belo Medical Group Ltd. 870-BELO, website www.belomed.com, e-mail info@belomed.com) has also opened a new clinic at SM Mega Annex in Ortigas.

'Sheer Beauty' promo offers big discounts, giveaways

NOURISHING treatment lines launches Sheer Beauty, featuring great discounts, raffle prizes and gifts with purchase offers until Aug. 31.

In the Robinsons Department store's Beauty Bar, for every P50 single receipt purchase from the Cosmetics and Perfumery departments and the Health and Beauty Aids department, the consumer can win one of three iPod Touch 8Gb gadgets. Free gifts await consumers who make a P1,500 single receipt purchase.

Sheer Beauty is co-sponsored by L'Oreal and Pond's with Revlon, Slim Parter, Cover Girl, Ever Bilena, Procter & Gamble, Johnson & Johnson's, Nivea, Sara Lee and also by Prestige Cosmetics, Nichido, Colgate-Palmolive, Unilab and Splash. For more great finds, log on to www.robinsonsdepartmentstore.com.ph.

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KOJIE SAN BODY LIGHTENING Lotion and Kojie san Face Lightening Cream, both manufactured by Beauty Elements Ventures Inc., contain the whitening agent kojic acid. Research proves that kojic acid is effective in exfoliating melanin production and in reducing the pigment in melanin-containing cells. Because Kojie San Body Lightening Lotion and Kojie san Face Lightening contain kojic acid, they are best for treating age spots, discoloration and hyper-pigmentations of the skin. Both products prevent the formation of dark spots, reduce skin blemishes, restore skin suppleness, moisturize the skin and bring about healthy, rosy skin.

Kojie san Body Lightening Lotion and Kojie san Face Lightening are available at Watsons, Mercury Drug stores, SM and other leading supermarkets nationwide.

KOJIE SAN Body Lightening Lotion

Scents to go

Bench To Go caters scents and grooming products. Find your favorite aboard and all its scents on one side along with aboard for kids. Hairstyling products, Body Bench Cologne, Bambino scent collection, Bench Scents' Body Spray and Bench Body Sprayers available. Bench To Go's kiosks is located at Trillenia, Quezon City.

BENCH To Go's fragrance collection

'Whitening system for Asian women

Mary Kay launches the Meta-CEP Whitening System, a complete skin care line that aims to brighten, balance uneven skin tone and provide protection for Asian women's delicate complexions. It helps keep dark spots from surfacing and protects skin against further damage from the sun and other environmental stresses. To learn more about Mary Kay, log on to www.marykay.com.ph; tel. 8088211.

2-in-1 face product

Mens Fair Men add-treats skin care needs with Whitening Acne Oil Control, an advanced 2-in-1 face care system that prevents the occurrence of acne while promoting skin whitening to lighten the dark spots caused by blemishes. For the latest with Micro White Clear Complex and vitamin C, it helps even out the skin tone. Providing long lasting oil control, it is also enriched with an oil control system that regulates oil production to prevent the appearance of acne and other skin imperfections. It comes in a full range of cleansing and moisturizing products targeted to promote effective whitening and oil control care for men.

SM Mall of Asia, the country's premier lifestyle destination by the scenic Manila Bay, is a mailing phenomenon that has undeniably redefined the Filipino mailing and entertainment standards. The endless retail, dining, and entertainment options and the numerous activity areas that host the town's hottest and biggest events have all made MOA a one-stop lifestyle hub.

MOA also offers free Wi-Fi access around the mall, one of the many convenient services designed to offer the best mailing experience to its shoppers. Just bring your laptop, handheld gaming units, or Wi-Fi enabled mobile phones to the mall and stay connected even as you shop and dine.

You can also opt to surf in the comfort at one of MOA's numerous coffee shops with your laptop. Check your e-mail, social networking accounts, and favorite websites while sipping your favorite brews.

The Biggest "Eyeball" Event

Friendster the massive social networking site where 87% of Filipinos online connect to friends, families, and significant others, is bringing Pinoy Friendster Day—their grand eyeball event—to MOA on August 15.

The social networking site that pioneered the phenomena in the Philippines has grown to include almost everyone from all types of lifestyle and subculture. The wide variety of Friendster users reflect the assortment of people in the Philippine Internet scene, and how Filipinos are quickly adapting to the Internet lifestyle.

Pinoy Friendster Day organizers are also attempting to set the world record for the largest gathering of social networking site users with the event. A fun-filled day is in store for all Friendsters who will attend this grand event. Rock out to the music of some of today's hottest bands like Rico Blanco, Callalily, 6 Cyclemind, Imago and other surprise guests.

Cool games and activities will definitely keep Friendsters entertained. Attendees will have a good time posing in the FriendBooth photo booth and photo op wall, doodling on the graffiti wall, meeting people in the speed dating event and "adding" up new Friends by in their "add me as a friend card". Everything is free, so Friendsters must be ready to bring home loads of goodies from the different booths. Be part of the moment and experience a FunTumTum! event with your friends! The Pinoy Friendster Day will culminate with a spectacular fireworks display.

Drop by MOA on August 15 and take part in the historic Pinoy Friendster Day. Only MOA can bridge the gap between on and offline social events; with lifestyle choices that will never fail to impress you. Come to MOA and see for yourself why no other mall comes close!

Let's make history!

Pinoy friendster Day

Grand Friendster EB for the world record

JAM with the country's hottest bands!
Rico Blanco, Callalily, 6 Cycle Mind, Imago, Pedicab, Paraluman

Awesome games and prizes for everyone to enjoy!

August 15, 2009, 4pm
SM Mall of Asia Music Hall

FREE Wi Fi @ SM Mall of Asia

Editor Emerson G. Yolando

ENTERTAINMENT

Mobile Alert: Text INQEN DIGEST to 4467 | Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment | E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Not showing in SM cinemas

DID YOU KNOW...

WHY IS STAR CINEMA'S "KISS I LOVE YOU So" not showing in SM theaters nationwide? It was first reported that Bill was irked because the movie starring Bea Alonzo, Sam Milby and Derek Ramsay pre-

MORE ON

Connect to the most current electronics and gadgets!

MARIAN Rivera

OVERHEARD

"I WON'T RESIGN so speak up, mind, should someone step on me or berate radio," says Marian Rivera in the cover story of Look Magazine's July-August issue. She was recalling an incident where she lost her seat because of an overzealous movie fan, which was captured on video and posted on YouTube.

TV5 takes 'third force' role

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TWO TOP OFFICERS OF TV5 believe that the fledgling network has taken over the role of "third force" in local television.

Tonyboy Cojuangco, president of ABC 5 (which is in charge of operations), and Jasper Arrogancia, senior vice president and head of brand management of TV5 (and Prime Media, which is in charge of programming and sales), are bullish about the network's prospects as it celebrates its first year this month.

"We are leaving ABS-CBN 2 and GMA 7 to the same three slots. We are No. 1 in the morning (with the variety) and Saturday, prime time," Cojuangco told Inquirer Entertainment.

He added that TV5 offers a solid Saturday prime-time lineup, led by "Talentadong Pinoy" and "Who

TV5 TO

CHEER FACTOR

LOS ANGELES—THE RECORDING ACADEMY and The Recording Academy has named Neil Young, 63, as Person of the Year for his "talent, integrity and boundless creativity." He will be feted in a three-concert tribute on Jan. 29. AP

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MOVIEWORLD

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GALLERIA

1 G.I. JOE
2 THE PROPOSAL
3 THE HANGOVER
4 BOOK OF BLOOD
5 AND I LOVE YOU SO
6 ORPHAN / G.I. JOE
7 LITTLE BOY BIG BOY
8 G.I. JOE
9 SHOWBOYZ
10 AND I LOVE YOU SO

ERMITA

1 BOOK OF BLOOD
2 THE HANGOVER
3 G.I. JOE
4 THE PROPOSAL
5 AND I LOVE YOU SO
6 AND I LOVE YOU SO
7 G.I. JOE / ORPHAN

METRO EAST

1 G.I. JOE
2 G.I. JOE
3 BOOK OF BLOOD
4 THE HANGOVER
5 THE PROPOSAL
6 ORPHAN
7 HARRY POTTER 6
8 AND I LOVE YOU SO

NOVALICHES

1 G.I. JOE
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 THE HANGOVER
4 BOOK OF BLOOD

PIONEER

1 G.I. JOE
2 THE HANGOVER
3 BOOK OF BLOOD
4 AND I LOVE YOU SO

STA. ROSA

1 AND I LOVE YOU SO
2 G.I. JOE
3 HAUNTED
4 KAMASUTRA NIGHTS 2

LIPA

1 AND I LOVE YOU SO
2 G.I. JOE
3 THE PROPOSAL
4 FROM WITHIN

DASMARINAS

1 AND I LOVE YOU SO
2 G.I. JOE
3 THE HANGOVER
4 HAUNTED

IMUS

1 AND I LOVE YOU SO
2 THE HANGOVER
3 G.I. JOE
4 HAUNTED

STARMILLS

1 G.I. JOE
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 ORPHAN
4 IT'S ALIVE
5 THE PROPOSAL
6 ECHELON CONSPIRACY

ANGELES

1 G.I. JOE
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 ORPHAN
4 THE AMUSEMENT

TACLOBAN

1 AND I LOVE YOU SO
2 G.I. JOE
3 THE PROPOSAL

BACOLOD

1 G.I. JOE
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 THE PROPOSAL
4 PUBLIC ENEMIES
5 BLOOD: THE LAST VAMPIRE
6 AND I LOVE YOU SO

ILOILO

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2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 THE PROPOSAL
4 PUBLIC ENEMIES
5 HAUNTED
6 AND I LOVE YOU SO

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MOVIEWORLD

citi

Jazz at Sofitel tomorrow

AMERICAN JAZZ BASSIST singer Esperanza Spalding performs tomorrow at the Sunset Pavilion of Sofitel Philippine Plaza with Pinoy band Fourth at Four. Meantime is at 7 p.m. Spalding will conduct a free/master class clinic at 3 p.m. which ticket holders may attend for free.

Born in Portland, Oregon (of African-American, Welsh and Spanish descent), Spalding, 24, first turned on to music at age 4 when she saw the classical cellist Yo-Yo Ma performing on TV. She learned how to play violin at 5 and became a member of the Chamber Music Society of Oregon by 10 years old.

At 15 she dropped out of a prestigious performing arts school in Oregon and entered the Berklee College of Music on full scholarship. She went on so much at the school, the youngest instructor to be accepted at age 20.

While studying at Berklee, Spalding was hired by Patti Austin for an Ella Fitzgerald tribute tour. For Medeski reportedly told Spalding that she had the "X factor" and could have a successful career if she wanted it. She has recorded two albums, "Esperanza" (2006) and "Esperanza" (2008), collaborated with Stanley Clarke, among other artists, and played in various music festivals.

Like Spalding, the members of Haiku all went to music schools. Bassist Karel Honasan was a Berklee scholar; drummer Michael Abbe was a scholar, too, at LA Music Academy and is a member of various instructor in local TV shows, concerts and recordings; keyboardist Mike Rivera is a UP College of Music scholar and the band's musical director; vocalist Reba Buenaventura Honasan is likewise a UP scholar and, incidentally, Karel's wife. The band has released an independent album, "Baby Steps."

Call 812-0888 or 819-0000.

ESPERANZA Spalding

HYBUZ

Billy Crawford, Myrza in Cebu

PLDT-SMRT Native launches "Negrense Remy," a new line of business solution products with a show tomorrow at the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC) Plenary Hall.

Featured performers are Billy Crawford, Myrza, Anna Feiji and Regine Tolentino, with local guests and "Iron Priest/Aldin as program hosts.

'World of Nick Joaquin'

"The World of Nick Joaquin," an exhibit and film screening, opens tomorrow until Sept. 13 at the Cultus Dept. to commemorate the National Artist's 5th death anniversary.

The film version of his play "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipina," directed by Ike Arellano, will be shown at the Megavia Cinemaplex in Ayala Alabang's "Right Filipino Odyssey of Artistic," celebratory soiree by Joaquin and directed by Butch Nolasco. Call 0917 5655546.

SHOW TIME

TV5 takes 'third force' role

From page 11

Newsstar to a Millionaire?"

"Being a third force was not good when we launched TV5 last year," said Evangelista. "For the longest time, there was only 2 and 7. So one really put up a good fight. But now we are considered part of the competitive set of 2 and 7."

"Entertaining Pinoy" is the No. 1 show [every Saturday] and it proves that 2 and 7 can be beaten," Cojuangco noted.

"I mentioned that 2 and 7 now have their own versions of 'Eat Bulaga,'" Cojuangco continued. "That's normal. The industry is full of copycats. The giants keep copying each other. They're bereft of original ideas."

TV5 has put together a current-events as well, to protect the gains of "Eat Bulaga."

"We are coming up with innovations within the show, like the People's Choice Awards," Evangelista said. "We've launched new programs—specifically, a spin-off of "Entertainment Tonight" and "Insider" [which is hosted by Iyan Aguinaldo, ex-capitalizer on its success."

As far as Cojuangco is concerned, it's "time to be overconfident" for TV 5. "We are No. 3. We are happy where we are. We are not after the general market ... we're into niche marketing. We've captured the youth segment, ages 12 and below and 18 to 35."

Youth is a fickle demographic, Evangelista conceded. "That's why we have a research group that's in bed with the viewers, so to speak. We conduct regular focus group discussions with them."

The quest to know the audience has reached Cyberspace, too. "We have an online forum and we take in all the comments, big or small," Evangelista explained.

Cojuangco pointed out that the youth sector is "the biggest, most exciting chunk of the audience. Other things can for their attention, like computers, cell phones, gimbo ... But's why if you could hold on to them, your program must really be good."

"I CAME up with Brad. After him, I came up with nobody," says Quentin.

BRAD Pitt as Lt. Aldo Raine turns in a good performance.

SHARP-MTG

2nd Symposium Makes Learning MATH FUN

LAURENTI Dyogi, director

Not showing...

Tarantino keeps admiration . . .

From page 11

showing the whole course of the making process that maybe I feel closer to, where I'm kind of almost involved in writing them. I'm kind of like them during the course of the writing. That was definitely the case in 'Kill Bill' where I was The Bride for that whole year and a half that we were writing it. It's so simple as, for lack of a clichéd expression, stepping into your fantastic side. Actually, it's like you stepping in. That suggests I'm trying to do something.

Feminine qualities

"It's just that all of a sudden, feminine qualities in me that wouldn't normally come out, just started coming out because I was looking at these studs through a woman's perspective. I was Beatrix [The Bride]. All of a sudden, I was seeing in a way that I don't normally. I was buying little things and decorating the house as opposed to making it like a dorm room, as it looks like now (laughing). I started wanting jewelry where I don't normally wear it. I'm informing myself. I cleaned my act up as my color coordination was concerned."

Will one of Hollywood's famous non-stop bachelors ever marry? "I'm getting older. Would I consider getting married? Yes. I would definitely consider it. I would definitely consider having kids. A few years ago, I even had kind of a baby fever. I'm over it, though.

"But [real dismal's] means I don't want to have kids. It just means I don't have the fever anymore. I'm not going to use motherhood to make it happen."

As to why Quentin cast a big star like Brad—when he usually likes character actors—he explained: "We've always wanted to work together. But I had to come up with the right character. About halfway into writing this film in 2006, I started to think, who could play Aldo? I came up with Brad. After him, I came up with nobody. I always have second, third and fourth choices—sometimes the fourth one is the best choice. I just could not think of anybody else who would embody Aldo. There's an old adage that is true—you cast actors like stars and you treat stars like actors. And Brad is a fantastic character actor. So the guy who created the character, I had a blast hanging out with Aldo. I remember one time when I was hanging Aldo. I was looking through the viewfinder and I thought, wow, I can imagine this is what Sydney Pollack felt when he was shooting Tootsie's Johnson with Robert Redford. I mean, the guy [Brad] looks f****ng great."

E-mail the columnist at remspalter_EMS@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Populist Report," on http://blogs.inquirer.net/populistreport

Tarantino keeps admiration for Mendoza, 'Kinatay'

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rahbee V. Nepsuden

LOS ANGELES—OUR BRIEF interview with Quentin Tarantino for his glorious "Inglourious Basterds" gave us a chance to ask him about the surprise, upset victory of **Brillante "Dante" Mendoza** as their director for "Kinatay" in the Cannes Film Festival last May. Quentin said "Inglourious..." were also in competition.

"I would have liked to win," Quentin said with a mischievous smile as he tilted his head down and to the right, seeing sheepishly over his admirers. Then he bowed as again as he explained, "Having said that, it (Brillante's Best Director win) was one of the few decisions that I agreed with the jury, where Christoph's (Waltz, who won Best Actor for "Inglourious...") win, obviously. That (Mendoza's) ended up becoming like the most reviled movie at the festival, but I looked at it as a completely different way. I was totally quiet (when with it. It's a puzzling movie, to be sure—it's a complete eye-witness camera perspective of a horrible murder situation."

Quentin continued: "It was intentionally not made cinematic. There's no entry to get in the way. There is no melodrama involved. It is literally an eyewitness account of a horrible incident ... yet the first part actually has a wedding in it and looks like it was shot in High-8 Technicolor ... I thought it was a pretty profound movie."

Quentin's own film, a "Spaghetti Western but using World War II iconography" (his own words), is one of his most enjoyable. It is a revenge fantasy-violent fairy tale told in Quentin's style, as only he could get away with, for **example, using a '60s song, "The Green Leaves of Summer"** to the opening scene of the movie set in the '40s. The entire cast, which includes **Brad Pitt** as Lt. Aldo Raine, turns in good performances but **Christoph Waltz as the multilingual** Col. Hans Landa runs away with the movie. Christoph will be hard to beat in the Best Actor derby in the race towards season.

He uses 'Tagalog,' 'Filipino' in script of 'Basterds'

"I THOUGHT it was a pretty profound movie," Tarantino says of BD's big tribute to Cannes this year.

'All right'

Quentin seemed energized by the favorable reaction to his film that he was more animated than usual during this interview. He was so lively that most of our photos of him were fuzzy images of his face, arms and hands in motion. "All right" are his favorite words of emphasis.

Quentin's script for "Inglourious..." has been circulating for quite some time. In one scene, Christoph's Nazi officer Landa finally captures Brad's Aldo, who is the leader of a group of American Nazi hunters and was pretending to be Italian. This being a Tarantino script, the words "Tagalog" and "Filipino" suddenly appear in our page. When asked about this portion in the script which didn't end up in the final cut, Quentin's eyes lit up as he answered, "People ask me, Are there any scenes that you cut out that you regret?' I don't have any scenes that I cut out that I regret. I always have some lines that were my favorite lines all through the writing and making of the movie. Then they just end up getting dropped because I'm just ruling a section out to make a scene work."

As he continued answering, Quentin **surprised us by reciting the particular** lines from the script word for word. Obviously relishing this part of the script, he rewound and the lines he said, "Actually the way the joke works (laughing) **is in the scene where Col. Landa is** sizing across from Aldo at the end, when they have their confrontation. There was a section that I took out of the scene just to make it more compact. Col. Landa goes, 'Italian? Really? What could you have possibly been (Speaking)?' and then, Aldo: 'Well, I speak a little Italian.' Landa: 'I speak a little Tagalog, but I wouldn't begin to presume I could pass for Filipino (laughing).' I loved that line. And I loved the p's and the rhythm of it. But it just didn't make it."

Those lines may not have made it to the final cut but they are on page 141 in the script published by Little, Brown and Company.

Artistic stroke

"So for my fluency in languages, I'm barely fluent in English," he replied when asked. He quipped: "So I'm now fluent in English, shoshco and schlocky talk, all right. I speak a tiny, tiny bit of Mandarin from working on 'Kill Bill.' And I'm getting some German ingredient. I don't really have enough to actually have a conversation but I've got a lot of words in my head right now. (I) actually start doing the work of trying to string them together in sentences, I think I might be okay in German."

On the intentional misspelling of "bastards" in the title, he simply said, "It's just an artistic stroke (laughing)."

A question about how he is able to write great dialogue for both his male and female characters provided an interesting glimpse of Quentin, his writing process and his ... femme side. "I'm a writer," he began. "That is my job—to be other people. There's no difference to me as far as creating them, between the males and the females. They're my characters. I become them. When I get those conversations going, I'm both of them.

"There might be one or two characters

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KIKO RUSTIA

GOLDEN BRAIDING THE BANALADOR AND THE KINGDOM of the Crystal Skull by James Rollins. Long before Lara Croft or "Tomb Raider," I idolized Indiana Jones as the ultimate treasure hunter. It's a classic. Rollins is one of my favorite authors. In his other books, he combines science fiction and adventure. All my friends should read Rollins' books. (Rigord Sun Diego Jr. - 4-CCW, MAKATI CITY)

BOOKS

ANOTHER PIECE

ACTOR JUJU RAY-PUBLIC found another piece of his tan as he savors passing moment on a recent three-week visit to India. Now, he's a student and advocate of an ancient martial tradition. Page 5

Celebs against domestic abuse

STARS FOR OTHERS

ACTRESSES RUFFA GUTIERREZ, LEA SALONGA and Boots Anson-Roa, Senator Pia Cayetano, model Abigail Adriano, radio DJ Jiliberto and sportswoman Patricia Hernandez (Bacon are urging women to help end a vicious cycle that has scattered misery all over the world.

The Filipina celebrities have joined Avon's (international Speak Out Against Domestic Violence campaign, which has enjoyed the

FRONT

RUFFA Gutierrez, spokesperson for PP drive

LEA Salonga, biggest celeb supporter here

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ALFRED VARGAS

"LITTLE PRINCE" (Mr. antoine de Saint-Exupery) was one of the first books I've read. It's kids' literature, but if you read it today, only 20 or 30, I found the story so simple that I said to myself, 'Why didn't I write this?' I guess it would still be a good read, even if I become a grandparent.

J. D. Salinger's "Catcher in the Rye" used to be required reading in high school. I found it boring at first, but when I reread it myself, I became enamored. It's about one confused person trying to find himself. It's a personal point-of-view perspective.

I decided to read Mario Puzo's "The Godfather" because I watched the trilogy. I think the book is better than the movie. It's a book that every man should read. It's about the relationships of a father to his son, a boyfriend to his girlfriend. It's also about friendship and trust. Everything is here. — Marisol B. Cruz

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BEVERLY HILLS, CALI... ...At the annual Golden G... Awards, the Hollywood Fo... Press Association gives ... gelic and notable awards.

At its annual meeting ... chosen held Tuesday, the g... gave away $2.2 million ... grants to arts organizations ... ensemble.

Warren Beatty, Rosa... Gowan, Eva Longoria, Fa... and Dylan McDermott ... among the stars who jo... announcer president P... Berk at the Beverly Hilto... tel to present grants to ... film schools and non-p... groups.

The private, candle... luncheon drew scor... celebrities and industry ... ers, who dispensed ... champagne and fine food.

"I always behave bad... events for the Hollywood ... eign Press because th... more fun than usual," ... Beatty said as he ... topped a $100,000 gran... help the Film Foundation ... serve and restore ... films.

Beatty told the crowd ... won the "Most Promi... Newcomer" award at the ... Golden Globes in 1962 ... had no assigned duties ... ...

Berk promised the 72-... old actor a replacement ... actor would be in his office ...

...ent work.

Other stars appearing ... behalf of the great benef... ers also had a little fun ... the podium.

Longoria Parker, who ... copped a grant on behalf ... the National Academy ... Latino Independent Pro... ers, jokingly stuffed ... $20,000 check into her d...

"June" director Anne ... ston talked about his ... maker before as he don... the microphone for ... $50,000 grant in support ... Los Angeles Cinematheque ... which preserves historic ... ures.

Carla Gugino, who ...

BOOTS Asher-Bu...

Celebs...

...support of his causes in ... interest, media and public ... ers since it was launched ... this year. Stalls is the ... spokesperson.

Proceeds from the sale o... company's fund-raising ... pets—Global ... Mobilize and Area Lolita ... go to the Women's Crisis C... (WCC), which hopes to ... the operating hours of its ... hotlines, through which ... can report abuse.

wood Foreign Press away $1.2 million

ERRY Ronson ROSE McGowan

ed a $25,000 grant for Lauren City Arts, spoke about the need for art in impoverished communities.

"Art is not a luxury," she said. "It is a necessity of the human soul."

Other groups awarded grants included the Lollipop Theatre Network, which provides movie screenings for hospitalized children, Philmfolk International, which

ranges screenings and provides film education for refugees worldwide; Film Independent, which puts on the annual Spirit Awards; and the Sundance Institute. Nine film schools also received grants to support fellowships.

The association has given more than $10 million in grants over the past 15 years, Berk said.

AP

Hudson gives birth to son

LOS ANGELES—Grammy- and Oscar-winning singer and actress Jennifer Hudson has given birth to her first child, David Daniel Otunga Jr., her publicist said in a statement Tuesday.

The 27-year-old American star and her fiancé, David Otunga, an ...mma... parents of a "beautiful and perfect" ...son, who weighed in at 7 pounds, 14 ounces (3.2 kilograms) ...where he was born on Monday, said Hudson's publicist, Lisa Esco...

"His parents are ecstatic," she added in a statement on BET with... giving details about ...where the child was born.

Hudson, a ...

...charismatic vocalist who shot to fame in 2004 as a contestant on the popular reality show "American Idol" (one ...after she was eliminated early on, won later cast in the musical "Dreamgirls," in a performance that now has won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in 2007.

Although she never ...studied acting ... singing, Hudson set out to become a star and already surrounded ...

But in October 2008, the fairy tale story of the aspiring singer from a poor neighborhood of Chicago, Ill., soon ...a tragic turn ...when her mother, brother and nephew ...were fatally ...shot ...by the ...ranged husband of Hud...son's ex-sis...

AFP

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A leap of faith

ROBIN at the Taj Mahal in Agra: Happy to discover not just ancient places, but an ancient practice.

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IMMERSION IS ROBIN HOOD Fernando Cariño Padilla's other middle name.

It is little-known that the charismatic actor-emcee, who, it seems, is quick to wrap his mind around the history and culture of whatever place or discipline he trains his famous roving ear on. When assiduous research yields enough to sustain his interest, there it follows, the immersion.

Robin was recently invited to the Nobis School-Ilijan in Cabitol City—to the southernmost Indian coast of Kerala—to speak about this little school in that town, Quezon City that he built, Paaralan ng Liwanag ng Kapayapaan (School of Light and Peace).

There was just no way it would escape Robin that Kerala is the home of Kalaripayat or Kalaripayattu, an ancient martial tradition. Curiously a martial arts enthusiast—a known one-thirdmaster of Muay Thai, Jung Fu and so on on many—the actor is now an advocate of Kalaripayat as well. It is his latest leap of faith, to be sure, and he's happy to have located the fundamentals from master Gurukal Sadhasivan, whose name he comes with unadulterated respect.

Robin says the Indian practice is a "complete" study. Living Stars' own research confirms, "Bringing together techniques, weapons, flexibility and strength training, traditional treatments and, above all, a philosophy based on ancient Vedic concepts makes Kalari the most comprehensive system of martial training."

Romance

Included in the Nine Hellcoting of his three-week Indian sojourn was a five-hour drive to Agra (165 kilometers away), where Taj Mahal is located.

An accidental tourist, he wasn't. He knew every detail of the love story behind the wonder of womb, one of the original seven wonders of the world, and he took the time to share this with media cues on Reading even if it meant straying miles away from the subject at hand, his hands as the lone exclusive for SkyFlakes crackers.

"Shemaa Mahal accompanied her husband Shah Jahan to all his battles. To say he loved her very much was not nearly enough," Robin said as though reciting poetry, relishing the tale even as he told it. "He built Taj Mahal to cherish her memory when she died. And when he was imprisoned by his own son, who overthrew his government, Shah Jahan asked only that he be locked up in a tower where he could gaze at Shemaa's tomb all day."

Of course Robin—history buff that he is, and relentless believer in the enduring magic of romance—likewise went to the nearby Agra Fort (or Red Fort) and up to that tower. "On the wall facing the direction of Taj Mahal, I saw a hollow where a huge diamond used to be. According to the books, on every base of that diamond was reflected the tomb of his beloved."

For a while there, he was off memories, immersed in the memory of the journey that he vowed to take again, soon.

EMMANUEL ARIANDO
PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROBIN PADILLA

AT THE entrance to the Red Fort, Robin, wearing the Agra hats of a famous romantic.

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The Time Traveler's Wife

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